CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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POWER TUSSLE

Kharge says leadership issue will be resolved after talks

Cong high command moves swiftly to settle K'taka's escalating leadership dispute

NEW DELHI

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said the party's top leadership — including Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi — will collectively resolve the ongoing power tussle in Karnataka, which has intensified amid speculation of a possible change in leadership halfway through the government's five-year term.

Kharge and Rahul Gandhi are expected to meet in the next 48 hours to discuss the matter. Following this, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar are likely to be summoned to the national capital, possibly on Friday, for further consultations. Sonia Gandhi is also expected to participate in the meeting.

The leadership debate has grown louder in recent weeks, fuelled by chatter about an alleged "power-sharing" pact between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar in 2023. The Congress government reached its halfway mark on November 20, reviving speculation that a transition may be underway.

Will change of guard take place in state soon?

- Karnataka PWD Minister Jarkiholi said CM Siddaramaiah urges Congress High Command to clarify the leadership change issue promptly.
- Priyank Kharge said Congress high command will decide Karnataka power-sharing, addressing rumors, backward class issues, and political stability in the Delhi meeting today.
- State HM Parameshwara declined commenting on Dalit CM speculation and cabinet expansion.

"Only the people there can say what the government is doing. But I would like to say that we will resolve such issues. Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and I will sit together and deliberate... We will provide the mediation required,"

—Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress President

Siddaramaiah has publicly stated that the high command alone can "put a full stop to the confusion," while Shivakumar has referred to a "secret deal between five to six of us" regarding the sharing of power — comments that have added intrigue to the unfolding political drama.

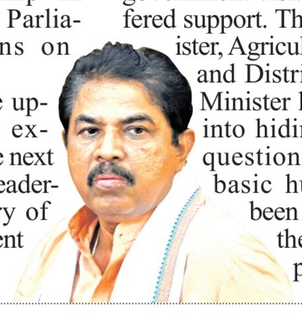
Reports suggest that the central leadership plans to make a decision on any change in leadership in Karnataka before the Parliament session begins on December 1.

The outcome of the upcoming meetings is expected to determine the next phase of Karnataka's leadership and the trajectory of the Congress government in the state.

Leadership tussle overshadows farmer distress, says R. Ashoka

BENGALURU

Opposition leader R. Ashoka has strongly criticised the Congress government, accusing it of ignoring farmers amid the ongoing tussle for the Chief Minister's chair. He said CM Siddaramaiah and DCM D.K. Shivakumar are prioritising power over the livelihoods of Karnataka's food providers. Highlighting the plight of farmers, Ashoka cited a tragic incident in Gurlapur where a protesting farmer attempted suicide by consuming poison. "No minister from this heartless government visited him or offered support. The Sugar Minister, Agriculture Minister, and District In-Charge Minister have all gone into hiding," he said, questioning whether basic humanity has been abandoned in the corridors of power.



Fulfill Constitutional duties: PM Modi urges citizens

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a letter marking Constitution Day on Wednesday, urged citizens to actively fulfill their constitutional duties and contribute to building a Viksit Bharat. Emphasising that rights and duties go hand in hand, he said the nation's progress depends on how responsibly citizens uphold the values embedded in the Constitution.

"It is our responsibility to fulfil the dreams envisioned by the framers of our Constitution. When we work with this sense of duty, our nation's social and economic progress will multiply manifold," Modi wrote. While acknowledging that the Constitution guarantees fundamental rights, he reminded citizens that it also entrusts them with essential duties. "These duties form the foundation of a strong democracy," he added, urging every individual to act in ways that strengthen national interests.

The Prime Minister highlighted the significance of voting as a core democratic responsibility. Encouraging greater participation in elections, he proposed that educational institutions celebrate Constitution Day by honouring first-time voters turning 18, instilling in youth a deeper sense of civic responsibility. "Our Constitution has given us the right to vote. As citizens, it is our duty to never miss the opportunity to vote in national, state and local elections," he wrote.

Modi also reflected on how the Constitution has enabled people from modest backgrounds, including himself, to aspire and achieve, calling it a document that offers "the power to dream and the strength to work towards it."

Paying tribute to the members of the Constituent Assembly, he invoked Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, noting that the spirit of duty is essential for democracy as well as for social and economic advancement.

Govt approves ₹7,280 cr to boost rare earth magnet manufacturing

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a major scheme to promote the manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) in India, with a total outlay of ₹7,280 crore. The initiative includes sales-linked incentives worth ₹6,450 crore over five years, aimed at encouraging local production and reducing dependence on imports.

The scheme will facilitate the establishment of integrated manufacturing facilities spanning the entire value chain—from converting rare earth oxides to metals, metals to alloys, and alloys to finished REPMs. It targets a total production capacity of 6,000 Metric Tons Per Annum (MTPA), with five units each capable of producing 1,200 MTPA. The seven-year program includes two years dedicated to setting up the manufacturing units.

India's REPM consumption is expected to double by 2030, driven by demand from electric vehicles, defence systems, and renewable energy technologies. The scheme aims to create a strong domestic ecosystem for these critical components. Currently, China dominates the global rare earth sector, controlling 60% of mining and nearly 90% of refining and processing.

Ahmedabad to host Commonwealth Games 2030

AHMEDABAD

Ahmedabad has been officially confirmed as the host city for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, marking a landmark moment for India and the Commonwealth Sport Movement. The decision was ratified at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow, where delegates from 74 member nations approved India's bid. The Indian Olympic Association said the Games will celebrate the centenary edition with a dynamic vision centred in Ahmedabad, showcasing the nation's culture, scale, and sporting ambition.

State to form panel to reintroduce student elections, announces DCM

BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday announced the state government's plan to reintroduce student elections, aiming to nurture political leadership on college campuses. The announcement was made during a Constitution Day event organised by the Karnataka Congress.

Shivakumar revealed that the idea to restart student elections came following a letter from Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, to him and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. "I'm announcing today that a small committee will be formed to examine the feasibility of holding student elections and submit a report," he said.

Student elections in Karnataka were banned in 1989 after a few violent incidents, which led to the disappearance of politically affiliated student bodies from colleges. Shivakumar, who also serves as Karnataka Congress president, said former student leaders will be consulted to study the advantages and challenges of reviving campus elections. "Back then, there were criminal activities associated with the polls. We will explore ways to conduct elections while controlling such issues," he added.

Identify anti-Constitutional forces in India: CM Siddaramaiah

"The ₹43,000 crore set aside for the all-round development of Scheduled Communities should support community growth. Hostels must help children pursue education, and additional funds from development corporations should further aid their progress. Awareness of laws and rights is essential for all citizens."

—K H Muniyappa, The Minister for Food and Civil Supplies

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called for identifying anti-constitutional forces in the country while speaking at the Constitution Day 2025 celebrations organized by the Department of Social Welfare at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan in Vasanthnagar. Paying tribute to the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, he highlighted that prior to the adoption of Ambedkar's Constitution, the country was governed by the unwritten Manusmriti, which contained discriminatory and inhumane provisions. Ambedkar's Constitution abolished these oppressive rules, which is why certain groups opposed it.

Siddaramaiah emphasized that the Constitution and Ambedkar's vision aimed at creating an egalitarian society and eliminating inequality. He reminded citizens that the mantra "We the People of India" forms the foundation of the Constitution, reflecting extensive deliberations over one year in the Constituent Assembly to frame a document suited to India's diverse religions, castes, and communities. Unlike other global constitutions, India's Constitution is a written (rigid) framework, incorporating safeguards such as reservations to address historical social hierarchies.

The CM urged people to internalize Ambedkar's final address in the Constituent Assembly, warning that equality cannot easily be achieved in a society entrenched in caste-based discrimination. He stressed that no religion promotes hatred against Dalits, backward classes, Muslims, or minorities. He recalled that out of 285 members of the Constituent Assembly, 284 ratified the Constitution, showing near-unanimous approval of Ambedkar's vision.

Siddaramaiah also highlighted the state government's efforts to implement welfare schemes such as Anna Bhagya and Shishu Bhagya, aimed at reducing inequality and empowering marginalized communities. The event was attended by ministers H.C. Mahadevappa, K.H. Muniyappa, M.C. Sudhakar, legal advisor A.S. Ponnanna, political secretary Naseer Ahmad, and other dignitaries.

41 naxalites surrender; 32 carried ₹1.19 cr bounty

BIJAPUR

Forty one Naxalites, 32 of them collectively carrying a reward of Rs 1.19 crore on their heads, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday, officials said.

The cadres, including 12 women, turned themselves in before senior police officials here, citing they were impressed by the government's new surrender and rehabilitation policy and "Poona Margham" (rehabilitation for social reintegration drive of Bastar range police), Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav said.

The surrendered cadres have expressed faith in the Constitution and pledged to live a dignified and secure life within the democratic framework.

Among them, four were members of PLGA (People's Liberation Guerrilla Army) battalion no.1 and different companies of Maoists, three of area committees, 11 platoon and area committee party members, two PLGA members, four militia platoon commanders, one deputy commander, six militia platoon members, and the remaining belonged to frontal outfits of outlawed CPI (Maoist), he said.

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India slams Pakistan's criticism of flag ceremony at Ram temple

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday firmly rejected Pakistan's criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in the flag hoisting ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, asserting that Pakistan has no moral standing to lecture others on religious tolerance. The ceremony, held on Tuesday, marked the formal completion of the temple's construction. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal responded to Pakistan's remarks, saying, "We have seen the reported statements and reject them with the contempt they deserve. As a country with a deeply stained record of bigotry, repression, and systemic mistreatment of its minorities, Pakistan has no moral standing to lecture others." He added that instead of delivering "hypocritical homilies," Pakistan should reflect on its own poor human rights record and focus on addressing the challenges faced by its minority communities.

BLAST SUPPORT SUSPECT

Red Fort blast: NIA arrests another man for aiding main accused

CHANDIGARH

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested Soyab, a resident of Dhauj near Al Falah University in Faridabad, for allegedly providing shelter and logistical support to Dr Umar-un Nabi, the prime accused in the November 10 Red Fort blast. With this, the number of arrests in the case has risen to seven, all linked to what investigators describe as a sophisticated "white-collar" terror module.

Six individuals are in NIA custody for allegedly assisting Umar:

- Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganai (Pulwama)
- Dr Shaheen Saeed (Lucknow)
- Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay (Shopian)
- Amir Rashid Ali
- Jasir Bilal Wani

According to NIA sources, Soyab is suspected to have accommodated Umar shortly before the attack and aided his movements. The agency said it continues to pursue multiple leads across states in coordination with local police to identify the wider network behind the suicide bombing.

Investigators will question Soyab alongside previously arrested suspects to piece together the operational structure of the module believed to have facilitated the bombing. Efforts to unravel the full conspiracy are ongoing, officials said.

As part of the probe, the NIA recently took Dr Ganai to Al Falah University for a detailed reconstruction of his movements. He also led investigators to two shops in Sohna where he allegedly purchased 1,600 kg of ammonium nitrate between December 2022 and February 2023. Meanwhile, Faridabad Police have seized fertiliser sales records from multiple shops across the NCR region to trace bulk purchases linked to the case.

1,666 govt schools to be shut in Mysuru dist: AIDSO

MYSURU

The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) leaders said that the state government is repeatedly declaring that not a single school will be closed in the State but in reality preparations are on to close down around 40,000 schools across the State.

Addressing a joint press conference here, Subhash Bettadakoppa, State Treasurer, Chandrakala, District President, Nithin, District Secretary, Swati, District Vice-President and Chandrika and Shakuntala, office-bearers said Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa keeps reiterating the same claim. But, under the name of the KPS-Magnet Project, the State Government is preparing to close over 40,000 government schools.

The government has targeted the establishment of 6,000 KPS Magnet Schools, with one such school for every Gram Panchayat. In the first phase, 800 government schools have already been identified as KPS Magnet Schools (100 in mining-affected districts, 200 in Kalyana Karnataka region and 500 in other regions). An official directive regarding this was issued on Oct 15.

They said as part of a pilot project, the government has declared a school in Honganoor of Channapatna taluk, Ramanagara, as a KPS Magnet School. Following this, orders have been issued (dated 23/10/2025) to urgently merge and shift students of surrounding schools located within a 6 km radius to this KPS School — namely: Hodike Hosahalli Government Primary School (77 students), Kanni Doddi School (82 students), Ammalli Doddi School (31 students),

Santemogenahalli School (100 students), Mogenahalli Doddi School (20 students), Sunnaghatta School (80 students).

They pointed out that villagers from these areas are protesting, demanding that their schools must not be shut down under any circumstance and instead should be strengthened to ensure quality education for local children. In the same manner, over 40,000 schools across Karnataka will be merged and dissolved under this project. Schools located between communities and villages will be shifted far away, outside their own locality. Moreover, the government is now amending service rules to force lecturers from government pre-university colleges to teach high school students. This move risks the closure of thousands of government pre-university colleges along with schools.

In the guise of educational development, the government is deceiving people and permanently snatching education away from poor children. While the education minister claims that one Magnet School will be opened per Gram Panchayat, the government's own list shows that 1,666 schools in Mysuru alone are slated for closure. In a shocking twist, the government now plans to repurpose the buildings of merged schools for other uses. It has announced plans to introduce a bill regarding this in the upcoming Belagavi Assembly Session.

Madhu Bangarappa had in an interview even stated that school buildings will be handed over to self-help groups. If not even a single school is being closed, how does the question of repurposing school buildings arise?

The government's move stands against the values of great education reformers who fought for education in this nation — Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Jyotirao Phule, Savitribai Phule, freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, and our own luminaries from Karnataka like Kuvempu, Kudmul Ranga Rao, and Pandit Taranath.

Success is possible if the people work satisfactorily: MLA Tanveer Sait

MYSURU

Narasimha Raja MLA Tanveer Sait said that youth of this country can achieve success if they work hard and satisfy themselves in whatever they are interested in, be it art, culture or sports.

Speaking at the inauguration of the district-level Yuva Janotsava program organized by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Yuva Sabalikaranna and Sports Department at Chamundi Vihar Stadium here, he said that the pressure parents put on their children in the field of academic growth and science can bring them the status of getting marks. But it does not bring values. No one can do the work done in the student life for a lifetime. Friendship, academic competition, desires, and aspirations are limited. There are many opportunities to fulfill them. Victory and defeat are not permanent and it is not enough to have desires for a year. If they can make continuous efforts, it can be achieved, he added.

Regional Commissioner Nitesh Patil, Assistant Director of Youth Sports Department Bhaskar Nayak, Dr. Suresh, Prof. Abduls Rehmans, and Nehru Youth Center officer Akhil were present at the ceremony.

The winners of the cultural competition are

First place in the Folk dance dance competition: Archana and team, Second place - Sanjay Kumar and team, Third place - Srikantha and team,
Folk song competition winners: First place Gahana Yuvaka Mandali, Second place - Namma Raga team, Third place - Rakshitsa and team.
Story writing competition - First place Kritika, Second place - Asharanipani, Third place - Prakriti.
Drawing Competition winners (individual) - Pathamma: Nandana, Second place: Sridarshan Bhaskars Malvankar, Third place: Jayananda K.S.
Debate competition - First: Appans Pasha, Second: Shivaraju L., Third: Monica K.
Poetry writing: First: Roopashree R - Second: Prakriti V., Third: Kritika
Innovations Tracks Group - First: Ishanth and Team, Second: Arfa and Team, Third: Lakshmi H and Team.

DC promises to fulfil demands of ex-servicemen

MYSURU

Deputy Commissioner Lakshmikanth Reddy has responded positively to the demands of the Mysore district unit of the All Karnataka Ex-Servicemen's Association and said that he will fulfill them on priority.

Speaking at a meeting held in Mysore Zilla Panchayat here, he said the Ex-Servicemen Association has sought the formation of 'Jawan Saman' layout and distribution of free sites. Another thing is that some private hospitals are refusing to provide ECHS services to ex-servicemen and their dependents. This problem should be resolved.

The president of the association should be appointed as a non-official member of the war memorial committee being built in Mysore. A meeting of ex-servicemen under the chairmanship of the DC should be held every year. Ex-servicemen who have not yet applied for a free site should be given another chance. You have asked that their association be recognized. He will try to resolve all your problems step by step and instructed the officials to make the grievances of ex-servicemen once a month.

Reddy also asked the oficials concerned to remove the plants planted in the war memorial site. A WhatsApp group of ex-servicemen should be formed and information should be provided. The ex-servicemen who have not applied for a free site can apply by March 31, 2026.

On this occasion, MLC C.N. Manjegowda, Additional Deputy Commissioner P. Shivaraju, Sudarshan, President of the Ex-Servicemen's Association K.P. Diwakar, General Secretary S. Nataraju, Chitra B.M., H.S. Nanjundaswamy, Neelkantha, Kumar Shetty and office bearers were present.

Constitution Day Celebration at CESC Office

MYSURU

A programme on reading the Preamble of the Constitution of India and administering the oath was held on Wednesday by Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESC).

The event was organised at the corporation's head office here on Wednesday, under the leadership of CESC Managing Director K.M. Munigopal Raju. Officers and staff of the corporation paid floral respects to the photograph containing the Preamble of the Constitution of India. Prior to this, the Preamble was read aloud and the oath was administered.

On this occasion, CESC officials and staff also observed a moment of silence to mourn the untimely demise of IAS officer Mahantesh Beelagavi and expressed their condolences.

Technical Director D.J. Divakar, Chief General Manager (Technical) Sharanamma S. Jangina, Chief Finance Officer G. Renuka, Chief General Manager (Internal Audit) Lingarajamma, General Managers L. Lokesh and Ramaswamy, along with officers and staff of the corporate office, took part in the oath-taking ceremony.

PROF CKN RAJA MEMORIAL DEBATE COMPETITION HELD

MYSURU

The Vidya Vikas Institute of Legal Studies (VVILS), under the aegis of the Vidya Vikas Education Trust (VVET) and in collaboration with the Prof. CKN Raja Memorial Trust, successfully hosted the Prof. CKN Raja Memorial Third State-Level Debate Competition here.

The event attracted enthusiastic participation from law students across Karnataka.

The central theme of the day's intellectual sparring was the highly contemporary and critical topic: "India is capable of implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology in all fields".

Participants delivered compelling arguments both for and against the motion, showcasing exceptional oratory skills, deep legal knowledge, and a nuanced understanding of AI's societal and legal implications. Valedictory Ceremony Highlights

The day concluded with a distinguished valedictory ceremony presided over by Kaveesh Gowda V., Secretary of VVET, Mysuru. The ceremony was graced by Justice P. Krishna Bhat, Judge (Rtd.), High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru, and Prof. Dr. T. Ramakrsihna, Former Professor of Law & Head, IPR Cell, Visiting Professor, NLSIU, Bengaluru, as the Chief Guests.

Justice Bhat delivered an insightful address, emphasising the need for ancient Indian law, weaving together references to Tagore's legal thought, Hamle law, and the scholarly works of the 1869 1870 period. He highlighted the enduring relevance of Dharmaśāstra, especially its emphasis on sustainability and the ethical administration of justice. Drawing comparisons between ancient Indian kings and Western rulers, he underscored how Smriti Karas shaped societal norms and the evolution of legal systems.

Prof. Dr. T. Ramakrsihna spoke on the intersection of AI and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), stressing that India's capability is not just in implementing the technology but in creating a robust legal and educational framework to govern its use responsibly.

Prof. (Dr.) P. Ishwara Bhat, Former Vice Chancellor, KSLU/NUJS and Legal Education Advisor, VVILS, Mysuru, who was the Guest of Honour, lauded the quality of the debate and the students' grasp of a complex, futuristic topic, reaffirming VVILS's commitment to providing effective legal education through practical and engaging formats.

Competition Results

After a day of rigorous competition across both English and Kannada debates, the results were announced, and the winners were awarded prizes and certificates by the esteemed guests.

SWR Mysuru Division celebrates Constitution Day

MYSURU

South Western Railway, Mysuru Division, commemorated Constitution Day with a solemn and meaningful programme.

Shammas Hameed, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM), Mysuru, administered the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of India to all officers and staff, reaffirming their collective commitment to the democratic values and ideals enshrined in the nation's Constitution.

In his address, Hameed underscored the relevance of the Preamble in guiding the nation's progress and reminded employees of their responsibility in upholding constitutional principles through their daily work.

He emphasized the need for dedication, transparency, and unity in contributing to the nation-building process.

Milk production is the lifeline for farmers: MLA G.T. Devegowda

MYSURU

Today's farmers face a crisis where they suffer losses due to excess rain, crop failure due to lack of rain, or loss even when crops grow but do not fetch a fair price. In such circumstances, the real lifeline that sustains farmers is the field of milk production, observed MLA and President of the State Cooperative Federation, G.T. Devegowda.

Speaking after inaugurating the National Milk Day celebration by offering floral tributes and garlanding the statue of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the father of the White Revolution, at a programme jointly organised by the Mysuru District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Federation and the Indian Dairy Association, Karnataka Chapter, he said Dr. Kurien laid a strong foundation for the milk sector, helping it expand into a major industry across the nation. They must always remember his contributions. During M. Krishnappa's tenure as Union Agriculture Minister, he introduced the Holland cattle breed to Karnataka at Bannerghatta. Setting up the KMF was also his contribution.

The MLA recalled that during his term as Prime Minister and when H.D. Revanna was KMF Chairman, the SPEP scheme was implemented, enabling women producers to travel across the country. This helped increase dairy products and today, as many as 167 products are being promoted and marketed. The former CM B.S. Yediyurappa increased the subsidy to ₹2. Now, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has raised it to ₹3. Thus, the government is directly giving ₹5. The Ksheera Bhagya scheme introduced for schoolchildren helped support the survival of dairy unions.

He added that regular visits by dairy veterinarians for fodder seed distribution and health check-ups helped the growth of the federation. Dairy farming has also helped women become self-reliant. It supports children's education, farming, healthcare, and emergency family needs. They are contributing to the nutrition of the future citizens of the nation. No matter how much they remember Dr. Kurien, it is not enough. They are all playing a vital role in nation-building. In recent times, they can clearly see that women are emerging as a powerful force. Earlier officers served without greed, honestly, unlike many today who prefer earning money over service. Living truthfully will guide them towards progress. Supervisors must perform their duties every day with commitment.

Dr. Satish Kulkarni, President of the IDA South Zone, speaking as the chief guest, said India has been the world leader in milk production for 20 years. The dairy industry contributes 239 million tonnes and brings an economic income of ₹12 lakh crore. No other country has seen such growth in dairy production. This is guided by Dr. Kurien as he established 17 national institutions and took India's dairy industry to international standards. This day celebrates the visionary who won the 'Food Nobel' equivalent honour and received 18 honorary doctorates.

At the event, the State Best Woman Milk Producers Award was presented to Shivani Rajshekhar (Dharwad), Dr. Jyoti Umesh (Mysuru) and Manjula (Chikkaballapur). Former Managing Directors Dr. Channegowda and B.S. Gangadhar, and NDDB Director Dr. Belawadi were felicitated.

A technical session was held on the effects of SNF (Solid-Not-Fat) in animal feed and reproductive methods.

Mymul President K. Eerhegouda, Directors A.T. Somashekar, K.G. Mahesh, K. Umashankar, C. Om Prakash, P.M. Prasanna, R. Cheluvaraju, K.S. Kumar, Drakshayini Basavarajappa, Leela B.K. Nagaraju, Neelambike Mahesh Kurahatti, Shivagami Shanmugam, B.N. Sadananda, B. Guruswamy, B.A. Prakash, A.B. Mallika Ravikumar and others were present.

MLA Harishgowda distributes free laptops to students

MYSURU

Agriculture and Mandya District In-Charge Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy distributed laptops to 330 students under the aegis of Yashoda Krishna Charitable Trust run by Chamaraja Congress MLA K.Harishgowda.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister complimented Harishgowda for this nice gesture and called upon the students to make use of the laptops for their studies. Of late, laptops have become the part and parcel of education and every student need it at every point of time. At the same time, the students must develop honesty and integrity which are the basic principle of education.

Cheluvarayaswamy said the Harishgowda was a rare breed of politician who sold his couple of sites to do the charity works. He had been unlucky in politics by losing the Assembly election twice but romped home in the 2023 Assembly polls on the Congress ticket. The people must give him one more chance to serve them.

Sri Nirmalanathaswamiji of Adi Chunchanagiri Mutt, MLAs Tanveer Sait and Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, MLC Dr THimmaiah and others were present.

Nov 29: "D-Day for K'taka Cong?"

Will High Command Broker Peace Between CM & DCM?

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

The Congress high command faces one of its most delicate political tests on November 29, when Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar are expected to meet the national leadership in New Delhi.

The key question is whether the party's top brass can bring a truce between the two towering Karnataka leaders over the issue of power sharing. What began as a closed-door agreement has turned into a public spectacle, denting the credibility of the high command and raising doubts among the public about who truly controls the State Government.

Supporters of both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have been regularly making trips to Delhi, lobbying openly and issuing statements, thereby exposing factional battle lines. This has raised an uncomfortable question for the party: If the high command cannot enforce discipline within its own government, how will it run the party nationally? At a time when Congress wishes to project unity ahead of multiple state elections and the 2026 Lok Sabha build-up, this dispute could not have come at a worse moment.

Adding to this complexity is the upcoming winter session of the Karnataka Legislature scheduled in Belagavi from December 8 for two weeks. Politically, this becomes a crucial shield for Siddaramaiah. He is likely to use this session as an excuse to seek more time, arguing that changing leadership right before the session may disrupt governance. The high command may also be tempted to postpone the decision, given that Parliament will be in session simultaneously and the party will want to avoid negative headlines.

However, such delay may not sit well with Shivakumar. He has steadfastly maintained his desire to take over soon, especially since only 30 months remain in the current term. Realistically, if the transfer of power gets delayed further, he may get merely 24 months to govern, as the last six months will be consumed by election preparations. To him, waiting until February or March would allow Siddaramaiah to present yet another budget, possibly creating a record and bolstering his authority further — something Shivakumar would find strategically damaging.

The high command's dilemma deepens due to the social implications of replacing Siddaramaiah. He is considered the strongest AHINDA (Minorities, Backward Classes, SC/ST) face in Karnataka politics. With 4–6 crucial state elections scheduled in the next year, the Congress cannot risk alienating these key voter communities. Conversely, Shivakumar feels he has waited long enough and asserts that he must be given the top post now, with a promise of efficient governance.

With Mallikarjuna Kharge struggling to strike a compromise, the matter is likely to fall into the hands of Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, who must decide whether to reward loyalty (Shivakumar) or safeguard social arithmetic (Siddaramaiah). Rumours suggest Sonia is inclined toward Shivakumar, while Rahul prefers Siddaramaiah — complicating matters further.

As November 29 approaches, all eyes are on the Congress high command. Any further postponement could deepen internal rifts and jeopardize Karnataka's only major Congress-ruled state. A delayed decision is not just a political gamble — it could become the party's most costly miscalculation.

Tug of War Contest Set for Nov 30

MYSURU

As part of the MP Sports Festival, a special event has been planned in Mysuru this year under the Fit Youth for Developed India initiative. The traditional and physically demanding sport that also requires skill—tug-of-war—is being organized on November 30 at 8 am at the University of Mysore Oval Grounds.

This sports competition is being organised under the leadership of Mysuru–Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar.

Men's and women's teams can take part in the tug-of-war competition. Each team must have a minimum of eight members.

The men's competition will be held in weight categories of below 560 kg, below 640 kg, and below 720 kg. In the women's category, competitions will be held for teams below 500 kg and below 540 kg. Trophies, cash prizes, and certificates will be awarded to the winners in each category.

FIT INDIA
ಸಂಸದರ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ
Fit Yuva For Vikasit Bharat
ಅರ್ಪಿಸುವ
ಹಗ್ಗ ಜಗ್ಗಾಟ
Tug of War
Weight Class
Mens
Womens
below 560 Kg
below 640 Kg
below 720 Kg
below 500 Kg
below 540 Kg
WINNERS
RUNNERS
on 30-11-2025 at 8:00 am
Venue : University Oval Grounds, Mysuru
Please Note
Register before 5:00 pm of 29th November 2025
Each team consist of 8 members
A minimum of 4 teams per weight class is required
to allow the match to take place
Best of 3 round will be consider
For Registration & Details Contact :
Gopalraj Urs (Krishnaraja) : 9980763793
Dinesh Gowda (Chamaraja) : 9901979899
Manju (Narasimharaja) : 9731505548
Fighty Ravi (Chamundeshwari Rural) : 9986217441
Rakesh Bhat (Chamundeshwari Urban) : 9916221184

REGISTRATION

Participants must register by 5 PM on Nov 29. For registration and further information, contact:

- Gopalaraj Urs (9980763793)
- Dinesh Gowda (9901979899)
- Manju (9731505548)
- Fighty Ravi (9986217441)
- Rakesh Bhat (9916221184)

'CONSTITUTION WAS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS ENDING COLONIAL EXPLOITATION'

MYSURU

The Indian Constitution was framed not merely to declare India a sovereign democratic republic, but to end the political, social and economic exploitation caused during British rule, said Maj Gen S.G.Vombatkere, a retired officer of the Indian Army, speaker at a Constitution Day programme organized by CFTRI on the occasion of the Constitution Day.

Explaining how the Constitution evolved, he recalled that the first idea of a Constitution for independent India was expressed by Mahatma Gandhi in the pages of Young India on 13 September 1931. Gandhi wrote that India needed a Constitution that would free citizens from "thralldom and patronage" of the colonial rulers. Three years later, in 1934, the idea of forming a Constituent Assembly began to take shape among freedom fighters. After years of struggle, the first meeting of the Assembly was held on 9 December 1946. Between 1946 and 24 January 1950, the Assembly met 166 times. In its early discussions, an objective resolution proposed by Jawaharlal Nehru identified the three core values for the new Constitution—justice, liberty and equality. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar later added the fourth pillar, fraternity, on 21 February 1948, highlighting that without fraternity, neither equality nor justice could survive.

The retired top army officer said a drafting Committee of seven members was formed on 29 August 1947: Alladi Krishnaswami Aiyar, N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, K.M. Munshi, B.R. Ambedkar, B.L. Mitter, D.P. Khaitan and T.T. Krishnamachari (who replaced Khaitan after his death). The next day, Ambedkar was unanimously elected Chairman. The Committee examined 2,497 amendments during debates marked by dignity, respect and democratic dialogue, unlike the confrontational politics often witnessed today. The final draft was presented on 26 November 1949, which is now observed as Constitution Day.

Describing the Constitution as a three-storey building—justice, liberty and equality—the speaker said its foundation is fraternity, the value Ambedkar emphasized to bind the nation together. He explained that the Constitution also sought to dismantle the exploitative economic and political systems of British India. Before independence, 60% of Indian territory and 77% of the population were directly ruled by the British, while 40% of the land with 23% of the population was under 565 princely states whose rulers enjoyed British patronage. Both British authorities and princely rulers collected harsh taxes through collectors and zamindars, enriching themselves and impoverishing the people. Cruel methods, including physical torture and imprisonment, were used to extract revenue.

At independence, 565 princely states existed; 13 became part of Pakistan, while 552 were within India—548 ruled by Hindu kings and four by Muslim rulers. The Constitution, the speaker concluded, was India's first step to unite these fragmented territories and liberate its people from centuries of exploitation.

Dr Giridhar Parvatam, director, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru, Shivaswamy, president, CFTRI SC/ST Employees Welfare Association and K.Ravikumar, controller of administration were present.

Justice Hegde Stresses Upholding Constitution to Students

MYSURU

Former Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde has called upon the students to strive to uphold the values enshrined in the Constitution before the citizens lose confidence in the judiciary.

"I am not talking about lacunae in the Constitution but also listing the shortcomings in it. Ours is the best Constitution in the world", he added while speaking at 76th Constitution Day and delivering a special lecture on 'Indian Constitution and the current society" organised by Dr B.R.Ambedkar Research and Extension Centre and Mysore University College of Law here on Wednesday.

He said greed for money has been the root cause for the rampant corruption in the society. The contentment has been replaced by greed. There is no fear of law. There is a race among the people to make money through illegal means. Recently, there was a news item about a politician with Rs 252 crore stashed in his house. Honesty has taken a back seat in the present society as almost everyone wants to become rich by indulging into corrupt practices.

The former Lokayukta said the existing anti-corruption laws only apply to the government services and for their alleged involvement in illegal gratification and for doing official favors. But the Prevention of Corruption Act is not applicable to private employees. Those who went to jail and come out on bail are given housing welcome. There are people to garland them with the garland of apples. What kind of message that they were trying to send to the society. Before the people lose faith in the judiciary, the onus is on law students to try and establish honesty among the people through their profession. "If any revolution happens in India on the lines of Nepal, India will be divided into ten countries. It must not be allowed to happen here".

Hegde said he didn't succumb to any political pressure while working as the advocate general and the attorney general, and had indicated three chief ministers (including one who had appointed him as the advocate general), eight ministers and 150 plus officials. One must be afraid to punish anyone who is guilty of corruption. In 1985, the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had said out of Rs one rupee released by the central government, only 15 paise is left for development. Based on that, one can imagine the prevailing corruption in the society. In olden days, the villagers would stop talking to the person and his family if he or she found corrupt, and that punishment was much more effective than the present ones. The cases are not solved for many years due to which the people have developed a kind of negative attitude towards the judiciary. The present generation has the biggest responsibility to make the people repose faith in the judiciary.

He said what is happening today, if it can be changed—which he thinks it can be changed—is in their hands. They cannot afford to live in a country where administration is covered by greed. He has seen sufferings of the people because of lack of administration or mal-administration. The greed has gone to such a level in this country, and I can give you examples. I'll mention one example for one decade of the growth of greed in this country: In the decade of the 50s, there was a scam called the Jeep scam—importing Jeep vehicles from England to Indian soldiers. Some people in power swindled 54 lakhs of rupees. Those days there were no crore-patis; only a few were there. The next decade there was a scam called Bofors, in purchasing weapons for our soldiers from Sweden to India. Some people in power swindled Rs 64 crores. Then the next decade came a scam called the Commonwealth Games; the country lost 70,000 crores in one scam. I am not speaking from my pocket; you can go to Google, mention the scam, and get the figures. Then came a scam called 2G, and the country lost 176,000 crores in one scam. This country, every decade, there are hundreds and hundreds of scams taking place. The next decade came a scam called Coalgate coal scam; we lost 186,000 crores. Then came a scam called Rafael, more than two lakh crores.

UoM Vice-Chancellor Prof N.K.Loknath, UoM Registrar M.K.Savita and Prof T.R.Maruti, director, Mysore University College of Law were present.

Constitution ensured economic and social equality for all: MLC Manjegowda

MYSURU

Economic and social equality for every citizen can be ensured only through the Indian Constitution, said C.N. Manjegowda, Member of the Legislative Council.

Speaking after inaugurating the Constitution Day celebrations organised jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Mysuru City Corporation and the Department of Social Welfare at Karnataka Kalamandira by lighting the lamp, offering floral tribute to the Preamble and reading it aloud, he said as an MLC sharing the dais with officers is possible only because of the Constitution given by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The Constitution has provided equality to everyone, and that is why Dr. Ambedkar lives in the hearts of all. If the Constitution had not been framed, no one would have survived with dignity. Women and backward communities would never have accessed education. It is the Constitution given by Ambedkar that enabled girls to pursue education freely.

MLC Dr. D. Thimmaiah said that India, once afflicted with hunger, illness and poverty during British rule, has progressed to this level only because of the Constitution. India has excelled in industry, irrigation, agriculture, technology and IT-BT sectors due to Ambedkar's vision. For India to progress further, caste discrimination must end and we must move forward with unity and equality.

Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikant Reddy said citizens must follow the Constitution with discipline. The Constitution grants them all rights and also empowers us to demand them. Youth, the future citizens, must obey and protect it.

Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Sheikh Tanveer Asif said that before the Constitution, the poor, Dalits and women were denied their rights. Ambedkar through the Constitution ensured freedom and rights for all. If their rights are violated in the future, they must raise their voices and also fulfill the fundamental duties.

Prof. R.H. Pavithra of Karnataka State Open University described the Constitution as our breath. The largest written Constitution in the world stands on the pillars of liberty, equality and fraternity. When these values grow, the nation progresses in all directions.

Cape Buffalo dies in Mysuru Zoo

MYSURU

A 26-year-old male Cape Buffalo, 'Rajan' has died at the Mysuru Zoo on Tuesday, said a press release here. The buffalo had been procured from Trivandrum Zoo in August, 2011. The cause of death of the animal is due to multi organ failure owing to senility.

Appeal by MP to Facilitate Purchase of Tobacco from Growers

MYSURU

The number of tobacco growers in the Mysuru–Kodagu Lok Sabha constituency has been steadily increasing, and their issues must be resolved at the earliest, urged Mysuru–Kodagu MP Sri Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar.

In this regard, the MP has written a letter to Union Minister of Commerce Shri Piyush Goyal, requesting immediate measures for the purchase of tobacco grown by farmers.

According to available data, nearly 10,000 card holding growers have cultivated approximately 10 million kilograms of tobacco. However, this has been declared as unauthorised, pushing the growers into distress, the letter stated.

To rescue the growers who are facing severe financial hardship, immediate permission must be granted for the purchase of tobacco produce, the MP appealed to the Union Minister.

Explaining further, the MP noted that over the last ten years, registered and non-registered growers together have been producing around 100 million kilograms of tobacco in the state. But due to weather variations and other issues, this output has now reduced to 80 million kilograms.

Grant Registered Status

Non-registered tobacco growers must be granted the status of registered growers. In addition to this, the procurement quota must be increased by 10 percent, which will help enhance the overall purchase quantity, the MP urged.

He requested that the Union Minister issue directions to the Tobacco Board officials in this regard and take steps to resolve the issues of tobacco growers and provide them necessary support.

QUICK READ

Second round opens for UG AYUSH seats

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has opened the second stray vacancy round for UG AYUSH courses. Students can submit their choices until 10 a.m. today. Provisional results will be out after 2 p.m. the same day, and final results will be announced after 10 a.m. on November 28. Selected candidates must pay fees, download the seat confirmation slip, and report to their colleges by November 30. Meanwhile, the Health Department released the seat matrix for DNB and diploma courses for in-service doctors. KEA urged all candidates to follow deadlines and check the official website for updates.

Jayadeva doctors cure rare heart disease successfully

BENGALURU

Doctors at Jayadeva Heart Hospital in Bengaluru have successfully treated a 2-year-old child from the Philippines suffering from Tetralogy of Fallot, a rare congenital heart disease. The child, Avian Alin Jade, experienced severe breathing problems, fatigue, and low oxygen levels. A team of pediatric cardiologists, including Drs. Jayaranganath, Sunil P.K, Rashmi Kotecha, and Harish Mahabala, performed open heart surgery on November 10. Today, Avian was discharged after a full recovery. Tetralogy of Fallot affects blood flow in the heart and can cause cyanosis. This successful surgery highlights Jayadeva Hospital's expertise in treating complex heart conditions in children.

Thousands gather for Maha Satsang with Ravi Shankar

BENGALURU

A grand Maha Satsang was held in Indlawadi, Anekal, in the divine presence of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, attracting thousands of participants from over 30 surrounding villages. Hundreds of youth joined in meditation, bhajans, and spiritual sessions, reflecting growing interest among the younger generation. Gurudev spoke on the transformative power of meditation and the importance of value-based living, while Dr. H.R. Nagendra emphasized yoga's role in mental and community health. The event, supported by over 200 volunteers from Art of Living, offered attendees peace, inspiration, and guidance, making it one of the region's largest spiritual gatherings in recent years.

CSR drive to transform space under flyovers in Bengaluru

Rao directed completing pending tasks with BMRCL support, improving roads and medians, removing illegal structures, and resolving TDR issues quickly

BENGALURU

Bengaluru's under flyover spaces will soon get a new life, as Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao ordered officials to use CSR funds for development across East City Corporation areas. During his inspection, Rao said clean and useful public spaces under flyovers can reduce clutter and improve city life.

He pointed to the Iblur Junction project, where beautification has changed the look and feel of the area. At Carmelaram flyover, L and T created a Chaturanga Mandapa style space under CSR, which he asked to be repeated in other zones.To ease traffic on Outer Ring Road, three entry and exit points are already working.He directed that pending points be completed soon with support from BMRCL.Rao also ordered better service roads and median work at Kaikondrahalli.Illegal structures must be removed, and TDR problems should be solved fast.

He stressed quick drain connections near Wipro to avoid flooding in rains.

On roads from Sarjapur to Chikkabellandur, he said full asphalting and footpaths should follow once TDR clears. The delayed Gunjur Club Road must be repaired after drain work ends.

Rao also ordered removal of illegal footpath shops, boxes, and cables.

He proposed acquiring forest land near Varthur Gunjur Road to build a new stretch. This road will reduce daily traffic stress for local commuters. He finally urged officials to finish pending works fast and create safer cleaner streets for the people of Bengaluru.

The inspection was attended by senior corporation officers and engineers.

Citizens welcomed the move and hoped for quick results.

Property tax drive ordered in B'luru West

The Commissioner directed officers to complete all pending e-Khata applications by weekend, avoid unjust rejections, and resolve technical issues with GBA team to prevent citizen inconvenience.

BENGALURU

Commissioner Dr. Rajendra K.V. has asked officials of Zone One, West Municipal Corporation, to speed up property tax collection and clear pending public services without delay. He gave these directions during a review meeting of the revenue department.

The Commissioner told officers to finish all pending e-Khata applications by this weekend. He said no application should be rejected without clear reasons. He stressed that citizens must not suffer due to technical problems or slow processes. Officials shared issues they face with the e-Khata system, and he promised to speak with the GBA technical team to find quick solutions.

On property tax recovery, he ordered all revenue officers to work actively on collecting overdue taxes. He directed that all revision cases be taken up on priority. Demand notices must be issued immediately, and strict steps should be taken against defaulters. In serious cases, closure action on properties may be used, he warned. The meeting focused on voter list preparation and election readiness. Dr. Rajendra directed officials to complete the draft voter list on time and finalize it without delay. Booth Level Officers will be given training to handle their responsibilities. He made it clear that no private person should interfere in their official duties.

With teachers' constituency elections coming soon and municipal elections expected anytime, he asked for careful planning of all election work. He said accuracy, fairness and transparency must be maintained at every stage.

Additional Commissioner Manjunatha Swamy, Joint Commissioner Aarti Anand, Deputy Commissioner Abdul Rab, and other revenue officials attended the meeting.

Constitution gives equal life to every citizen: K.C. Manjunath

DEVANAHALLI

The Constitution is the strongest guide for people to live with equality and dignity, said Devanahalli Block Congress President K.C. Manjunath during the Constitution Day program held at the tourist temple in Devanahalli town. He said every citizen must respect and follow the Constitution in daily life.The program was organized by the Congress Party to mark November 26 as Constitution Day. Manjunath first laid a wreath at the picture of the Preamble and then led the gathering in taking the Constitution pledge. He said the Constitution has given people the right to speak freely, live with justice, and enjoy equal opportunities in society. He reminded people that these rights must be protected by respecting the law.Bangalore International Airport Area Planning Authority President V. Shanthakumar said Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other leaders who drafted the Constitution made great sacrifices for the country. He said the Constitution should never be misused or weakened for any reason, as it is the backbone of Indian democracy.Block Congress Women's Wing President Radha Reddy said the Constitution created the pillars of democracy like the legislature, executive, judiciary, and media. She explained that all these systems work under the guidance of the Constitution and called on people to follow constitutional values in everyday life. leaders attended the program, including Taluk Guarantee Scheme President C. Jagannath, Biovaja Director Prasanna Kumar, District Youth Congress President K.R. Nagesh, General Secretary Nagegowda, Vijayapura Block Congress President Dinnuru Venkatesh, and Anneshwara Gram Panchayat President Chandrashekhar.

Experts link declining liquor sales to repeated price hikes, despite excise revenue rising, with the ₹40,000 crore target challenging

K'taka liquor sales drop sharply in 7 months

BENGALURU

wLiquor sales in Karnataka have seen a significant decline over the past seven months, raising concerns for the state government's revenue collection. The Excise Department, which contributes about 20 percent of the state's treasury, has recorded lower sales compared to last year. Data shows that from April to October 2024, 407.40 lakh boxes of Indian Made Liquor (IML), including whiskey, rum, brandy, and gin, were sold. During the same period in 2025, sales fell to 403.04 lakh boxes, a drop of 4.36 lakh boxes. The decline is even sharper in beer sales, which fell from 279 lakh boxes in 2024 to 228 lakh boxes in 2025—a drop of 51 lakh boxes. Experts and sellers attribute the decrease mainly to repeated price hikes by the Siddaramaiah government since taking office. Liquor prices have been increased three to four times to generate revenue for government schemes. While the excise department collected Rs 35,530 crore in 2024-25, it had collected Rs 34,629 crore the previous year. The current year's target is Rs 40,000 crore, but falling sales make it challenging to achieve. Some observers also suggest that changing consumer habits, alternative beverages, and the cannabis-opium epidemic may have contributed to declining demand. Historical data shows IML sales have been falling over the past three years, from 410.78 lakh boxes in 2023 to 403.04 lakh boxes this year, indicating a continuing downward trend in Karnataka's liquor market.

Kadarappa elected unopposed to lead Valagerehalli residents

KENGERI

N. Kadarappa has been elected unopposed as the new president of the Valagerehalli Residents' Union for the year 2025–26. The announcement was welcomed by residents, who said his experience and steady leadership will help solve many local problems.

Along with him, a new team of office bearers was chosen. Nagaraj Hegde will serve as secretary and Satyanarayana T. as treasurer. The vice-presidents are Suresh, A.N. Navaneetha, and Somashekar. Akshata Bhide has been appointed joint secretary, Chetan P as organizing secretary, Subhash Nair as cooperative secretary, and Vinay Hegde as advisor.

Speaking after his election, Kadarappa said the support of residents and office bearers is the strength of the union. He said more than fifty housing complexes and residents from four to five surrounding blocks come under the union's work area. He added that he always listens to people's problems patiently and tries to find practical solutions.

He explained that handling issues like water supply, street lighting, road repairs, drainage, and sewer connections is not easy. It often needs constant follow-up with government officials and service departments. However, he said the union has managed to solve many issues over the years due to teamwork and honest efforts.

Kadarappa also shared that he has been continuing as president for the past nine years because residents trusted his work and approach. He promised to work with the same dedication in the coming year.

Advisor Vinay Hegde praised Kadarappa's role in responding quickly to local infrastructure problems. He also appreciated his efforts in protecting lakes and government land from misuse. Residents expressed hope that the new team will bring faster solutions and better services in the coming months.

B.N. Ravi praised for strong social service

BENGALURU

Social concern is not just a word, it is a way of life, said Sri Siddaramachaitanya Swamiji of Areshankara Math, while praising educationist and social worker B.N. Ravi for his dedicated service to society. He spoke at the Byadarahalli Cluster Level Pratibha Karanji and Kalotsava 2025–26, along with a free health check-up, free surgery camp, and Ayushman Card registration program organized by B.N. Ravi.The Swamiji said a true leader is one who treats people and the environment as his own family. He added that B.N. Ravi is a rare example of such leadership because he works to bring healthcare and support to even the weakest sections of society.

Kunigal MLA H.D. Ranganath said running an educational institution is not an easy task. He appreciated B.N. Ravi and his wife Parvati Ravi for managing Vidya Bhushan International School with dedication. He also praised their involvement in social service, temple activities, and public welfare work.

The event was supported by the School Education and Literacy Department of Bengaluru City District, along with field education and coordination officers. As part of Pratibha Karanji, students took part in competitions like drama, dance, folk shows, singing, devotional songs, speech, and fancy dress.Yeshwanthpur MLA S.T. Somashekar, different Congress leaders, education officers, and social activists attended the program as guests. Several local leaders, school management members, parents, and students also participated.The large gathering showed strong community support for the program. Many people appreciated the free health services and the effort to spread awareness about Ayushman cards.

NORTH BENGALURU LAUNCHES WEEKLY PHONE-IN GRIEVANCE PROGRAM

BENGALURU

To help citizens get quick solutions for daily civic problems, the Bengaluru North Municipal Corporation has started a special weekly phone-in program. Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar announced that this program will be held every Friday morning, allowing people to speak directly to officials and share their concerns without delay. This week's phone-in program will take place on November 28, Friday, from 7.00 am to 9.00 am. During this time, residents can call and report various issues they face in their local areas. The main aim of this initiative is to reduce waiting time for complaint resolution and build better communication between citizens and the corporation. People can report problems related to road potholes, damaged roads, faulty street lights, garbage collection, and drain cleaning. Complaints about dangerous tree branches, mosquito breeding, stray dog problems, and poor maintenance of public parks will also be accepted. Citizens can also raise issues about unauthorized banners, footpath encroachments, and e-Khata related services.

Every complaint received during the program will be registered on the Sahaya 2.0 online portal. Once registered, it will be immediately forwarded to the concerned officer for action. The complainant will receive an SMS with the complaint number and the details of the officer handling the issue, so they can track the progress easily.

Residents can contact the control room using the mobile and WhatsApp number 9480685705. They can also call the landline numbers 080-22975936 or 080-23636671. Apart from phone calls, citizens can also use the Sahaya 2.0 mobile application to submit their complaints.

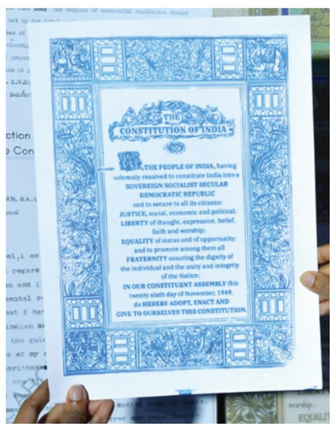
TRANSLATING LEGAL LEGACY

ALF launches Preamble videos in 17 languages

BENGALURU

On Constitution Day, the Alternative Law Forum (ALF) launched a series of videos translating the Preamble of the Indian Constitution into 17 languages spoken across Karnataka. The initiative aims to make the Constitution more accessible to all communities in the state.

In addition to Kannada, the Preamble has been translated into Aravu, Are Bhashe, Byari, Dakhani, Gosangi, Irula, Kodava, Konkani, Koracha, Koraga, Lambani, Malaame, Navaayath, Sanketi, Tulu, and Waghri. ALF hopes


THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA
WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:
JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

these translations will encourage more people to read, understand, and use the Preamble in educational and cultural programs.

Ashwini Bodh, ALF lecturer and activist, explained that the standard Kannada version of the Preamble is highly Sanskritised and often difficult to understand. "If the Preamble is available in local languages, communities are more likely to engage with it meaningfully," she said.

The project, part of ALF's larger effort to promote constitutional literacy, began with text translations over the past year. Video production accelerated over the last three months, with more than 45 people contributing through language suggestions, translations, and verification. ALF collaborated with native speakers and experts to ensure accuracy.

The initiative is ongoing, with plans to include languages spoken by Halakki Vokkaliga, Jenu Kuruba, and Yerava communities.

Bodh highlighted the challenges of reaching nomadic tribes, whose scattered locations and low literacy levels make translation difficult but crucial.

ALF continues to invite suggestions for more languages, aiming to make the Constitution accessible to every corner of Karnataka.

QUICK READ

Organic farming training scheduled on November 29

Chitradurga

A one-day training on organic farming for farmers of the district will be held on November 29 at 10 a.m. at the District Agricultural Training Centre, Babbur Farm, Hiriyur Taluk. Retired agricultural officer S. Rajshekharayya from Tumkur will conduct sessions on the importance of organic farming, various organic methods, and preparation of bio-fertilizers such as Jeevamruth, Beejamruth, solid Jeevamruth, and plant-based pesticides, with demonstrations. Interested farmers can register by calling 8277931058. Participation is limited to 50 farmers on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees must bring their FID or voter ID card for verification, as instructed by R. Rajneekant, Assistant Director of the District Agricultural Training Centre.

Happy if Dalit leader is given chance to become CM: MLA

Tumakuru MLA H.V. Venkatesh says he supports any power-sharing decision, including appointing a Dalit leader as Karnataka's Chief Minister

TUMAKURU

Tumakuru MLA H.V. Venkatesh has said that he would wholeheartedly welcome the decision if the Congress high command chooses to appoint a Dalit Chief Minister in Karnataka as part of any future power-sharing arrangement. Speaking to the media in Tumakuru regarding the ongoing discussions around the demand for a Dalit CM, he stated that the party should consider giving leadership opportunities to all deserving communities.

Venkatesh said that whether Chief Minister Siddaramaiah continues in office, or Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is elevated to the top post, or a Dalit leader is chosen as the next Chief Minister, he would be happy with any of these decisions. According to him, strengthening internal democracy and providing representation across communities would reflect the true spirit of the Congress party.

He recalled that in 2013, both he and senior leader G. Parameshwara lost their elections. Had Parameshwara won at that time, Venkatesh said, he would likely have become the Chief Minister. Highlighting the senior leader's long-standing contributions to the party, he expressed his personal wish to see G. Parameshwara occupy the Chief Minister's chair at least once in his political career.

He further added that he would be submitting a formal request to the party high command advocating for Parameshwara's candidature. However, Venkatesh made it clear that he remains fully committed to whatever decision the high command ultimately makes. The MLA emphasized that unity within the party and adherence to leadership directives are more important than individual preferences.

His remarks come at a time when discussions around leadership, representation, and future power-sharing have intensified within the Karnataka Congress. Venkatesh's statement is seen as a reflection of internal party voices seeking broader inclusivity in top leadership positions.

Urban local body election schedule announced

Karnataka State Election Commission announces schedule for Bashettihalli Town Panchayat general election and Dodballapur City Municipal Council by-election in December

BENGALURU RURAL

The Karnataka State Election Commission has announced the schedule for elections in urban local bodies of Bengaluru Rural district. A general election will be held for Bashettihalli Town Panchayat, while a by-election will take place for Dodballapur City Municipal Council, as informed by District Collector and District Election Officer A.B. Basavaraju.

The Bashettihalli Town Panchayat, newly constituted, will see elections across 19 wards.

The Dodballapur City Municipal Council by-election is necessitated due to the vacancy in Ward 21 (Hemavatipete Ward) following the death of a sitting member.

The Model Code of Conduct will be enforced in the jurisdictions of these urban local bodies from Dec 2 to Dec 24, 2025, covering all wards where general and by-elections are conducted.

District Collector and District Election Officer A.B. Basavaraju emphasized strict adherence to election norms and procedures during this period, ensuring smooth and fair conduct of both the general and by-elections.

Election Schedule

- Dec 2, 2025 (Tuesday): Official notification issued by the District Administration
- Dec 9, 2025 (Tuesday): Last date for filing nominations
- Dec 10, 2025 (Wednesday): Scrutiny of nominations
- Dec 12, 2025 (Friday): Last date for withdrawal of nominations
- Dec 21, 2025 (Sunday): Polling from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Dec 23, 2025 (Tuesday): Re-polling (if necessary) from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Dec 24, 2025 (Wednesday): Counting of votes begins at respective taluk centers from 8:00 AM and declaration of results

Constitution embodies the essence of all religions: Prof. Nataraj

CHITRADURGA

The Indian Constitution embodies the essence of all religions and focuses on the welfare and progress of humanity, said English professor Prof. Nataraj D.H. during Constitution Day celebrations at Shivasharana Madara Chennayya Sabha Bhavan, organized jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Social Welfare Department, and Urban Development authorities.

Prof. Nataraj outlined the Constitution's history, noting that the British government formed the Constituent Assembly in 1946. Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha served as temporary president, followed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad as assembly president and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as chairman of the drafting committee. Ambedkar studied over 60 constitutions worldwide to frame India's Constitution.

After 12 sessions over nearly three years, the draft was adopted on November 26, 1949, and came into force on January 26, 1950. Initially comprising 22 parts, 395 articles, and 8 schedules, it now has 25 parts, 448 articles, and 12 schedules.

The original text, handwritten by Prem Behari Narain Raizada, included illustrations by Ram Manohar Sinha and Nandalal Bose reflecting India's history and culture.

Former Minister H. Anjaneya emphasized that people of all religions participated in the freedom struggle, leading to independence and granting real rights and equality to women and marginalized groups. District Guarantee Project Authority Chairperson R. Shivanna added that the Constitution should be respected like a mother, and governments must not violate it.

The celebrations included awards for essay, art, and speech competitions, a display of student artworks, and a vibrant rally led by Sub-Collector B.T. Kumaraswamy. Cultural performances by Morarji Desai Hostel students highlighted constitutional values, spreading awareness across major city roads and concluding at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Circle.

Sports foster competitive spirit among students: City Council prez

RAMANAGARA

Emphasizing the importance of sports in nurturing a competitive mindset among students, City Council President K. Sheshadri (Shashi) stated that athletic competitions help uncover hidden talents and encourage students to represent the district at state and national levels. He urged participating children to showcase their best abilities and bring pride to the district.

Speaking at the inauguration of the 14 and 16-year-old girls' "Khelo India Asmit Athletics League – 2025" organized by the District Athletics Association at the district stadium, Sheshadri highlighted the need to utilize central government sports initiatives effectively. He noted that every participant demonstrating their talent to the fullest could earn opportunities to compete internationally, including the 2036 Olympics. He added that success comes through effort, and every dedicated participant will have a chance to shine.

The event was also addressed by 2003 India World Championship bronze medalist Anjubaby George, who emphasized that the Khelo India Asmit Athletics League provides a platform to identify promising young athletes.

Those excelling at the tournament may progress to state and national competitions, and top performers could be selected for international events, including the Olympics.

Among the dignitaries present were Umesh Babu, President of Ramanagara District Athletics Association; Vice President of the City Council, Ayishabanu; retired Drug Controller Srinivas; Bidadi-Kootagal Block Congress President Gangadhar Gowda; Taluk TPIMS President S. Suresh; Ramanagara Project Authority Director Praveen; District Government Employees Association President Dr. K. Satish; and other officials including Ro Shiva, Satish Tangavel, and Raju.

This event highlighted the crucial role of sports in developing talent, discipline, and a competitive spirit, encouraging students to aspire for higher achievements at state, national, and international levels.

Karnataka to observe Disability Week from Nov 25 to Dec 1

BENGALURU RURAL

The government will observe Disability Week from November 25 to December 1, 2025, as part of World Disabled Day celebrations. Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, opportunities in education, rehabilitation, social security, and employment are provided to integrate persons with disabilities into mainstream society. The act, replacing the 1995 law, recognizes 21 types of disabilities, including physical (locomotor, leprosy-cured, cerebral palsy, dwarfism, muscular dystrophy, acid attack victims), visual (blindness, low vision), hearing and speech impairments, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, mental illness.

A.B. Basavaraju urges citizens to restpect and uphold Constitutional equality

BENGALURU RURAL

Observing Constitution Day, District Commissioner A.B. Basavaraju emphasized the importance of the Constitution in ensuring equality for all citizens. Speaking at the district-level event held at Ambedkar Bhavan, Devanahalli, organized by the Bengaluru Rural District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Social Welfare Department, he paid tribute to the Constitution and its framers by offering floral tributes and explaining its significance.

He highlighted that India's written Constitution, adopted on November 26, 1950, after nearly three years of drafting by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other eminent leaders, originally contained 395 articles, 8 schedules, and 22 parts, making it one of the world's largest constitutions. Today, it comprises 467 articles, 25 parts, and 12 schedules. Basavaraju stressed that citizens must exercise their rights responsibly and integrate constitutional principles into daily life.

Dr. Manjula, a political science lecturer, elaborated on the Constitution as India's fundamental law, defining government structure, powers, and citizens' rights and duties. She noted that the Constitution accommodates India's diverse religions, castes, and communities.

The celebrations included awards for students excelling in competitions such as essay writing, painting, and other events promoting constitutional awareness. A "Constitution Awareness Rally" was held from the Tehsildar office to Ambedkar Bhavan, with participation from students, district officials, representatives from the Social Welfare Department, Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. K.N. Anuradha, police officials, and community leaders.

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/29/2025-26 Dated:26.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
KPPP Tender Notice, Single Cover System

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For MP, MLA, MWD & Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated:19.12.2025 upto 4.00 pm. Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www. KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/4045/2025-26

EDUCATION COMMITTEES IN GP

Official directs formation of education committees in all Gram Panchayats

CHITRADURGA

Dr. K.T. Tippeswamy, member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, directed the formation of education committees in all gram panchayats, insisting that mandatory review meetings be held every three months. Speaking at a progress review meeting on the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009) at the Deputy Commissioner's conference hall with school education department officials, he emphasized the need for proactive measures to safeguard children.

Dr. Tippeswamy noted that while women and child protection committees exist at the panchayat level, education committees have not yet been formed. Establishing these committees and organizing "open house" programs can help prevent cases of child marriage, POCSO violations, and underage pregnancies, effectively implementing child protection policies. He instructed officials to ensure that school dropouts are brought back to the mainstream education system, with individual records maintained detailing reasons for leaving.

He highlighted concerns over poor SSLC results in some unaided schools, urging corrective action, particularly to address teacher shortages that affect learning outcomes. Visits to households of out-of-school children revealed some had migrated for labor work in neighboring states; officials were advised to take steps to reintegrate these children into schools.

Dr. Tippeswamy also stressed that playtime must not be reduced for SSLC students, as extracurricular activities are vital for physical and mental development. Schools should equally prioritize academic performance and play. He directed compulsory display of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child information in all schools, implementation of child protection policies by December 15, designation and training of a teacher as child protection officer, and collaboration with other departments to track program outcomes. The meeting was attended by School Education Department Deputy Director M.R. Manjunath, DIET Principal M. Nasiruddin, District Child Protection Officer Veena, and other officials.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

CHANGE OF NAME
I SYED THAMEEM S/O SYED MUNEER R/O 2nd Cross, Nehru Nagar, Noorani Masjid Backside, Chikmagalur, Karnataka-577101, have changed the name of my minor daughter UMME HAFSA alias UMMEHAFSA aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as SYEDA HAFSA.

CHANGE OF NAME
I SAGNIK KISHORI MOHAN MALLICK S/O KISHORI MOHAN MALLICK, R/O 1/1 Srinidhi Nilaya, 16th Cross Road, CMH Road, Laxmipuram, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560008, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAGNIK MALLICK.

CHANGE OF NAME
I J MEENAKSHI PAI W/O K VIJAY, R/O No. 9/5-2, 1st Floor Out House, 6th Cross, 2nd A Main, Govindarajanagar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560040, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MEENA VIJAY.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VHORA HUZEFA, aged about 29 years, residing at P H 2, 5th Floor, Pearl Residency, Bhora Layout, Gottigere, Bannerghatta, Anekal, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560083, have changed my name from PANWALA HOJEFA MANSURALI to VHORA HUZEFA for all practical/documentation purposes, vide affidavit dated 25-11-2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary Ravi Kumar. V., Bangalore, Karnataka.

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYAT
District Health & Family Welfare Society, District TB Office, Bangalore Rural District, No.14, DC Office Complex, Beerasandra, Devanahalli, Office Phone No: 080-29787461, E-Mail:dtokablr@rntcp.org

No.: NTEP/DTC/BR/LAB/02/2025-26 Date: 25.11.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited two cover system through e-procurement portal for e-tender for procurement of lab materials/consumables for use in DMC's in Bangalore Rural District

Sl No.	Details	
01	Tender Form starting Date on e-procurement	27.11.2025
02	Tender Form Submitted Last Date	11.12.2025, 05.30 PM
03	Tender Opening Date	-
	Technical Bid	16.12.2025, 11.30 AM
	Financial Bid	Intimated
04	Tender Estimate amount	16.00 lakh
05	EMD	Rs. 40000/-
06	Tender Opening Address	**District Health and Family Welfare Office,** Bangalore Rural District, Room No.207, DC Office Complex, Beerasandra, Devanahalli.

Further Information: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** Office Phone No: **080-29787461, 9663409534**, E-mail: **dtokablr@rntcp.org**

Sd/-
District Tuberculosis Officer
District Health & F W Society
Bangalore Rural District

DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/4042/2025-26

QUICK READ

Cabinet Approves Pune Metro Phase Two Expansion

New Delhi

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the expansion of the Pune Metro network at a cost of Rs 9,858 crore, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The project includes Line 4 (Kharadi-Hadapsar-Swargate-Khadakwasla) and Line 4A (Nal Stop-Warje-Manik Baug) under Phase-2. This is the second major Phase-2 approval, following Line 2A (Vanaz–Chandani Chowk) and Line 2B (Ramwadi–Wagholi/Vithalwadi), aimed at enhancing connectivity and easing city traffic.

US Embassy Appreciates CBI Cybercrime Action

New Delhi

The US Embassy has thanked India's CBI for helping dismantle transnational cybercrime networks targeting American citizens. In a post on X, the Embassy said the CBI busted an illegal call center and arrested a key operative involved in these scams. It added that both countries are working together through coordinated intelligence and action to prevent future cyber frauds and ensure the safety of US nationals.

QBurst Launches 'High AI-Q' Enterprise Brand

Mumbai

PE-backed QBurst has launched its new 'High AI-Q™' brand, emphasizing AI-driven enterprise transformation. The framework integrates Generative and Agentic AI into all services, combining technical expertise (High IQ) with client understanding (High EQ). Designed to deliver measurable outcomes across Growth, Productivity, and Transformation (GPT), High AI-Q™ aims to provide AI-powered digital experiences and reinforce QBurst's commitment to futuristic, AI-first solutions for its clients.

PM NARENDRA MODI OPENS SAFRAN ENGINE FACILITY

A major new aviation facility promises growth, jobs and global partnerships

HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday virtually launched Safran's new Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility for aircraft engines in Hyderabad, calling India a reliable and trusted partner for global investors. He said investors are "co-creators" in India's growth story and highlighted recent government reforms, including the new labour codes aimed at improving the business environment.

Modi said the new facility, focused on servicing LEAP engines used in popular commercial aircraft, will help create important job opportunities for India's youth. He noted that the country's civil aviation sector is expanding at a rapid pace, with more people flying than ever before. The Prime Minister encouraged Safran to look at designing aircraft engines, parts and propulsion systems within India to further deepen technological cooperation.

The Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) unit will be the world's largest MRO centre for LEAP engines. It is expected to become fully operational in 2026 and will significantly strengthen India's own capabilities in the fast-growing aviation sector.

Built with an initial investment of ₹1,300 crore, the facility will support LEAP engines that power major aircraft models such as the Airbus A320 Neo and Boeing 737 MAX. These engines are built by CFM International, a joint venture between Safran Aircraft Engines and GE Aerospace.

India is among the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, with domestic airlines placing orders for more than 1,500 aircraft. Once fully operational by 2035, the SAESI facility will be able to service around 300 LEAP engines every year and employ over 1,000 highly skilled Indian engineers and technicians.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, developing strong MRO capabilities within India will reduce foreign exchange losses, create high-value jobs, strengthen supply chains and support the country's ambition to become a global aviation hub.

World Supports India's Anti-Terror Stand: HM

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that the Modi government's stand on terrorism is firm and uncompromising, and the world today is recognising and strongly supporting India's efforts against terror. His message came on the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, one of the deadliest assaults in India's history.

In a post on X, Shah paid heartfelt tributes to the security personnel who laid down their lives while fighting the terrorists in Mumbai on November 26, 2008. He said terrorism is not a threat to just one country, but a danger to the entire human race. According to him, the sacrifices made by the brave soldiers continue to inspire the nation's fight against terrorism.

Shah recalled that on this day in 2008, heavily armed terrorists launched a cowardly attack on Mumbai, targeting several public places and carrying out extremely cruel acts. He expressed deep respect for all those who lost their lives in the attack, including innocent civilians and security forces.

The home minister emphasised that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India follows a strict zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism. He said this clear stand has earned global appreciation and cooperation, with many countries openly supporting India's anti-terror campaigns.

He urged citizens to remember the brave police, commandos and personnel who acted swiftly during 26/11, saying the nation stays united in honouring them and strengthening efforts to end terrorism

Shah added that India's security forces are determined to protect the nation from all threats and ensure that such attacks never happen again.

He also urged citizens to remember the courage shown by police officers, commandos and other personnel who acted swiftly and bravely during the 26/11 siege. Shah said the nation remains united in honouring their memory and in strengthening efforts to eliminate terrorism in all forms.

The minister concluded by reaffirming India's commitment to global peace and collective action against terrorism, stressing that the fight requires international unity and firm political will.

Union Minister Promises Rs Ten Lakh To Villages

HYDERABAD

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar has promised Rs 10 lakh to villages in the Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency if they elect BJP-backed candidates in next month's Gram Panchayat elections in Telangana.

Addressing voters, Sanjay Kumar alleged that previous BRS and Congress governments repeatedly misled people by promising funds to Panchayats that unanimously elected their candidates but failed to deliver. In a post on X on Tuesday, he said, "Karimnagar villages: Elect a BJP-backed candidate unanimously and get Rs 10 lakh instantly for development. No delays, no excuses."

The Minister highlighted his ability to allocate funds under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) and noted that he had previously mobilised corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for education and healthcare projects in the constituency.

Mumbai attack victims honored, reaffirm commitment against terrorism

Global Leaders Remember Victims Seventeen Years After 26/11

NEW DELHI

Seventeen years after the horrific 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, global leaders paid tribute to the victims and expressed solidarity with survivors and families. The attacks, carried out by Pakistan-backed Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in November 2008, claimed 166 lives and injured hundreds in Mumbai's busiest locations, including the Taj and Oberoi Hotels, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Leopold Cafe, Nariman House, and Cama Hospital.

The US Embassy in India reiterated its commitment to fight terrorism alongside India and highlighted the extradition of 64-year-old Tahawwur Hussain Rana, accused of planning the attacks, as a major step toward justice. In a statement on X, the Embassy said, "We honor the memory of the victims and stand with survivors and families. Rana's extradition advances justice for those lost in the attacks."

Israeli Ambassador Reuven Azar also paid homage, calling the attacks an assault on humanity and emphasizing Israel's enduring support for India. "The shared fight against terrorism strengthens our deep partnership," he said.

French Ambassador Thierry Mathou condemned the attacks and reaffirmed France's unwavering solidarity with India in combating terrorism.

The events of 26/11 unfolded over four days, during which ten terrorists entered Mumbai via sea routes, targeting locations frequented by both locals and foreign nationals. The attacks left lasting scars on the city, including bullet marks at Nariman House and Leopold Cafe, and the memory of Assistant Sub-Inspector Tukaram Omble, who sacrificed his life to capture the lone surviving terrorist, Mohammad Ajmal Amir Kasab.

Kasab was later sentenced to death and executed in 2012, bringing partial closure to one of India's darkest chapters. Global tributes today underscore the continued commitment to fight terrorism and remember the lives lost.

US Embassy Praises India Crackdown On Cybercrime Network

NEW DELHI

The US Embassy in India praised the collaborative efforts of Indian and American agencies in dismantling international cybercrime networks after the recent crackdown on an illegal call centre in Lucknow targeting US citizens. In a statement on X, the Embassy said, "Through coordinated intelligence and decisive action, our agencies are working together to dismantle international networks to prevent future scams and keep our citizens safe."

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) confirmed that it has arrested a key absconding operative linked to the Lucknow call centre, which was allegedly part of a transnational cybercrime network. The CBI had registered the case on September 24, 2024, and conducted extensive searches at multiple locations connected to the accused.

Earlier, in September 2024, the CBI had dismantled four illegal call centres operating in Pune, Hyderabad, and Visakhapatnam. The arrested operative was instrumental in establishing and running the illegal call centres, including VC Infrometrix Pvt. Ltd in Pune and Visakhapatnam, and had been absconding since the case began.

VIT Bhopal Students Protest Poor Facilities, University Closes

BHOPAL

VIT Bhopal University in Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh, declared holidays until November 30 following massive student protests over inadequate campus facilities. Officials confirmed the decision on Wednesday after unrest escalated on the night of Tuesday to Wednesday.

Around 4,000 students staged demonstrations at the Ashta-area campus, voicing anger over poor drinking water, substandard food, and unhygienic toilets. Initial attempts by university security to control the situation reportedly failed, with videos showing some first-year students being assaulted outside a boys' hostel further intensifying tensions.

Students also raised concerns over a suspected jaundice outbreak linked to unsafe water, claiming some deaths, though authorities denied any fatalities. Protests turned destructive, with six to seven vehicles, including motorcycles, cars, and a university bus, damaged or set on fire. Reports also mentioned vandalism at the vice chancellor's residence.

Police from five Sehore district stations were deployed to restore order. A university official, requesting anonymity, said, "There had been growing concern among students about suspected jaundice cases after Diwali. No deaths have occurred on campus." Senior police confirmed a heavy force remains on duty to monitor safety as students disperse.

The unrest drew political criticism. Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari condemned the administration and government, noting many students required hospitalisation and calling the failure to provide basic amenities "a crime."

SC Rules Living Separately Not Always Divorce Cause

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has ruled that a marriage cannot be considered irretrievably broken merely because spouses are living separately. The court emphasised that it is essential to examine who caused the marital breakdown before granting a divorce.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymala Bagchi made these observations on November 14 while setting aside a Uttarakhand High Court order that had granted divorce to a man, and directed the high court to reconsider the case.

The bench noted that courts often assume a marriage has collapsed when spouses live apart. It said such assumptions should not be made without examining whether one partner forced the other to live separately. The Supreme Court highlighted that unless there is clear evidence of willful desertion or refusal to cohabit and care for the other spouse, declaring a marriage irretrievably broken can have serious consequences, particularly for children.

The case involved a couple married in 2009 with a son. The woman had appealed after the high court granted divorce to her husband on grounds of cruelty.

Delhi HC Declares Illegal Betting Profits As Crime Proceeds

NEW DELHI

In a landmark judgment, the Delhi High Court has ruled that profits from illegal betting can be treated as "proceeds of crime" under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) if the funds originate from unlawful sources.

The bench, comprising Justices Anil Kshetarpal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar, noted that once the source of money is illegal, any profit derived from it carries the same criminal taint. The judges likened it to the "fruit of a poisoned tree," stating that the criminal character of the original funds "continues to travel downstream," even if subsequent activities are not scheduled offences under PMLA.

The ruling followed petitions connected to a 2015 Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe into a large cricket-betting network. According to the ED, the network used offshore platforms, hawala operators, and domestic agents to circulate funds, generating nearly Rs 2,400 crore in a year. Searches revealed cash, documents, and digital evidence showing that key accused controlled access to foreign betting portals through special login IDs.

The accused argued that betting is not a scheduled offence, and profits should not be attached under PMLA. The court rejected this, highlighting that the law's definition of "proceeds of crime" is intentionally broad. It focuses on the illicit origin of funds, making any profit derived from tainted money liable for attachment.

Legal experts say this judgment strengthens the ED's powers to trace illegal money into ventures not explicitly covered under PMLA. It may apply to inflated stock gains, unauthorised businesses, or projects funded by illegal kickbacks.

BIRDS SURGE ODISHA

Over Two Lakh Birds Arrive Chilika Lake

KHORDHA

Chilika Lake in Odisha is witnessing a surge in migratory birds this season, with over two lakh birds recorded so far. The Chilika Wildlife Division has reported sightings of 87 species, an increase from around 60 species during the same period last year.

DFO Amlan Nayak said the early trends indicate a strong migratory season. "This year, more than two lakh migratory birds have arrived. Eighty-seven species have been sighted, compared to around 60 last year. This is a positive sign," adding that it was too early to comment on specific species' presence.

To prevent poaching, the division has strengthened surveillance, especially along vulnerable shoreline areas. Nayak stated, "Two poachers were detected in the Tangi area. One has been caught, and the other is still absconding. Poachers are active near the shores, so we monitor them with drones and patrols. We have zero tolerance for poaching."

The patrolling system has been upgraded to cover the entire shore round-the-clock with support from Chilika Development Authority staff. "We check every possible area to catch offenders. Patrolling is the key to protecting the birds," Nayak added.

Public awareness activities are also planned near the Nalabana Bird Sanctuary. Access to the sanctuary will be limited to small groups as per administrative rules.

Chilika usually records 222-223 migratory species each winter, and officials expect the numbers to rise in the coming weeks. Nayak said, "Most of the birds have arrived. This is a positive sign, and we are fully prepared to protect them."

QUICK READ

Delhi Congress Protests Worsening Capital Air Pollution

New Delhi
Delhi Congress leaders on Wednesday held a press meet wearing masks and carrying oxygen cylinders to show how serious the city's air pollution has become. They said the BJP-led government must act quickly to end this "health emergency." The air quality was in the "very poor" range, with an AQI of 335, marking the 12th straight day of polluted air. Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav said they will submit a memorandum to the Delhi government demanding urgent action.

Gas Tanker Blast Kills Two In Tirupati

Velampadu
Two workers were killed and three others injured when a gas tanker exploded at a tiles factory on Wednesday. Police said the tanker, which was meant to be filled with LPG, blew up around 11.30 am while nitrogen gas was being passed to check for leaks. Sri Kalahasti SDPO Narasimha Murthy said the victims died from severe head injuries. Police are registering a case and investigating the exact cause of the explosion.

Brother Accused Of Killing Sister

Shahjahanpur
A 22-year-old woman was allegedly killed by her brother in Itora Gotiya village after he objected to her talking to male friends over the phone, police said on Wednesday. The victim was identified as Naina Devi. According to SP Rajesh Dwivedi, the accused, Sher Singh, claimed he became angry after hearing recordings on her phone and said she had rejected marriage proposals. When she came to retrieve her phone, he allegedly stabbed her on the neck, leading to her death.

INDIA, VENEZUELA PUSH FOR STRONGER COOPERATION

India and Venezuela held wide-ranging talks to boost future cooperation

NEW DELHI

India and Venezuela on Wednesday held the 5th round of Foreign Office Consultations, where both countries agreed to deepen cooperation in important sectors such as trade, health, pharmaceuticals, digital technology, agriculture, development partnership, culture, and people-to-people ties. The meeting showed both nations' interest in moving their long-standing relationship forward through practical steps and regular engagement.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the two sides also renewed their commitment to working together in multilateral forums where they share common interests. Officials from both countries discussed key regional and global issues and

agreed to maintain close coordination in international platforms to advance their partnership. The MEA added that the next round of consultations will be held in Caracas on a mutually agreed date.

The meeting was co-chaired by P. Kumaran, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, and Tatiana Josefina Pugh Moreno, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela. India and Venezuela enjoy friendly and warm ties, and both countries hold similar views on many political and economic issues. They also marked 65 years of diplomatic relations in 2024, with embassies functioning in each other's capitals for more than four decades.

The consultations took place weeks after Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met Venezuela's Minister of Ecological Mining Development during the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam on November 15. Venezuela expressed interest in expanding economic ties with India beyond oil, including cooperation in critical minerals and attracting Indian investment. Minister Goyal highlighted the need to revive the India-Venezuela Joint Committee Mechanism and said ONGC's ongoing work in Venezuela could open new opportunities in mining and exploration. He also suggested accepting the Indian Pharmacopoeia to support pharmaceutical trade and encouraged boosting cooperation in the automobile sector.

41 naxalites surrender; 32 of them carried ₹1.19 crore bounty

BIJAPUR

The cadres, including 12 women, turned themselves in before senior police officials in Bijapur, citing they were impressed by the government's new surrender and rehabilitation policy

Forty-one Naxalites — including 32 who collectively carried a reward of ₹1.19 crore — surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday, marking another major success in the region's anti-Maoist efforts. According to Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav, the cadres, among them 12 women, turned themselves in after being influenced by the state government's revised surrender and rehabilitation policy, along with the Bastar police's "Poona Margham" initiative aimed at reintegrating former Maoists into society.

The group included members of the PLGA battalion no.1, various Maoist companies, area committees, platoons, and frontal organisations of the banned CPI (Maoist). Thirty-nine of them were linked to the South Sub-Zonal Bureau and were associated with the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, Telangana State Committee, and divisions spread across Dhamtari, Gariaband, and Nuapada.

All the surrendered cadres affirmed their faith in the Indian Constitution and expressed a desire to lead a peaceful, dignified life within the democratic system. Under the rehabilitation policy, each was given an immediate assistance of ₹50,000.

Several among them carried high bounties, including nine cadres with ₹8 lakh rewards each, three with ₹5 lakh rewards, 12 with ₹2 lakh each, and eight with ₹1 lakh each. SP Yadav said the success of the rehabilitation effort demonstrates how many Maoists are choosing to abandon violence. He urged others still in the movement to return to society without fear, assuring that Poona Margham provides a secure and self-reliant future.

Since January 2024, the district has witnessed 790 surrenders, alongside 202 Maoists killed in encounters and 1,031 arrests. Statewide, more than 2,200 Naxalites have surrendered in the last 23 months.

Kerala Court Sends Padmakumar to SIT Custody for Probe

KOLLAM

A Kerala special vigilance court on Wednesday ordered that CPI(M) leader and former Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president A Padmakumar be handed over to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for two days. The SIT is investigating the missing gold from the Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala. Police said Padmakumar will remain in SIT custody until Thursday evening, after which he must be produced before the court. The SIT, appointed by the Kerala High Court, has accused Padmakumar of listing "gold-plated copper plates" simply as "copper plates" in official records. He was arrested last Thursday and is the eighth accused in the second case linked to the missing gold from the Sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) door frames. Investigators are currently looking into two related cases—one involving gold missing from the gold-covered plates of the Dwarapalaka idols and another concerning the Sreekovil door frames.

CPI(M) MP John Brittas raised concerns about pension rules and fairness

CPI(M) MP Seeks Clarity on Pension Equality Issues

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP Dr. John Brittas has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing serious concern about what he describes as growing disappointment among senior and super-senior Central Government pensioners. In his detailed letter, he pointed to issues arising from the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) and a "validation clause" included in the Finance Bill 2025.

He warned that this clause seems to allow retrospective differences in pension benefits based on the date of retirement, which could go against the Supreme Court's principle of pension equality. Citing the landmark 1982 judgment in the D. S. Nakara vs Union of India case, he highlighted that all pensioners form one group and cannot be treated differently based on when they retired. He said such a move would violate Article 14 of the Constitution, which ensures equal protection of laws.

Dr. Brittas also raised concerns that the ToR's description of pensions as an "unfunded cost of a non-contributory scheme" reduces them to a financial burden instead of recognising them as deferred wages and a rightful entitlement. The absence of a clear assurance that past and future pensioners will be treated equally has increased their anxiety, he added.

He pointed out that the newly introduced Unified Pension Scheme promises 50 per cent of the last basic pay as pension, but continues to recover 10 per cent salary contributions and denies key benefits like commutation and family pension, making it less favourable than the Old Pension Scheme.

He also noted that important demands—such as shortening the restoration period of commuted pensions, revising the Fixed Medical Allowance, and granting additional pension between ages 65 and 80—are missing from the ToR. Employees of autonomous and statutory bodies remain excluded as well. Dr. Brittas urged the Prime Minister to strengthen the ToR and clearly protect pension equality to restore confidence among retired employees.

Protests Escalate Across Punjab Challenging AAP Government Policies

CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab is facing mounting unrest as protests continue across multiple districts over farmers' issues, administrative actions, and governance concerns. The wave of dissent comes ahead of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha's (SKM) statewide rally at Chandigarh's Sector 43, marking five years since the agitation against the now-repealed farm laws.

Tensions first erupted in Ferozepur on November 15 following the murder of RSS volunteer Naveen Arora. AAP MLA Ranbir Singh Bhullar faced angry locals when visiting the family, questioning the party's response. Three arrests have been made, but the main culprits remain at large. On November 18, Ferozepur Rural MLA Rajnish Kumar Dahiya encountered stone-pelting during a park inauguration over delayed development projects. Villagers recalled AAP leaders' earlier remarks encouraging symbolic protests, which have now resurfaced as criticism.

From November 17–19, residents of Jhok Hari Har protested the poor state of the Ferozepur–Muktsar road, prompting intervention by opposition leaders. A similar protest occurred in Mamdot, later resolved by authorities. On November 20, Kharar MLA Dr Charanjit Singh's controversial remark about a "10th pass person" sparked outrage among lawyers and residents, forcing a public apology.

Sangrur lawyers blocked the Ludhiana–Delhi highway on November 22, accusing MLA Narinder Kaur Bharaj of interfering in a land dispute. The incident remains unresolved, with Bharaj dismissing allegations as politically motivated. Farmers also raised concerns after tractor-trolley parts linked to previous protest removals were recovered from a suspended AAP leader's property. Additionally, state electricity engineers, government employees demanding Old Pension Scheme benefits, contractual staff seeking regularisation, and other unions plan ongoing protests. With multiple sectors expressing dissent, the AAP government is under intense scrutiny as public anger continues to grow across Punjab.

India's Constitution Guides Nation With Justice, Says J&K L-G

JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that India's Constitution has served as a strong symbol of equality, liberty and social justice for 76 years. He said the Constitution continues to guide citizens and push the country toward progress. The L-G urged policymakers and officers to follow constitutional values and work to protect the rights of all people.

Sinha said the Constitution has played a key role in shaping India's growth and unity. He stressed that national integrity must be protected and that society should be encouraged to build confidence and self-respect. He said resources should be used to make the nation strong and self-reliant.

The L-G said that after a long wait of 67 years, all provisions of the Constitution became fully applicable to Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. He claimed this step ended years of discrimination and injustice in the region. He added that J&K is now progressing under the principles of social and economic justice laid down by B.R. Ambedkar.

Sinha said his mission in J&K is to improve lives, remove injustice, end the terror ecosystem and ensure that central welfare schemes reach the poorest families. Responding to critics, he said the earlier practice of supporting separatists and troubling patriots has now stopped.

He added that by implementing every part of the Constitution in J&K, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured honour, dignity and pride for all residents of the Union Territory.

Daughter-in-Law Of Pan Masala Owner Dies By Suicide

DELHI

A 40-year-old woman, the daughter-in-law of a prominent pan masala company owner, allegedly died by suicide at her Delhi residence. She was found hanging by her husband on Tuesday and rushed to Safdarjung Hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival. Police said the couple had been living separately due to ongoing marital disputes.

A suicide note and a diary recovered from the scene reportedly mentioned frequent conflicts with her husband. The woman is survived by two children. Her body has been sent for post-mortem examination, and investigations are ongoing. Police have urged families to seek support in cases of prolonged domestic conflict and mental distress.

Uttarakhand CM Leads Preamble Oath On Constitution Day Event

DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami led a special ceremony on Wednesday to mark Constitution Day by administering the Preamble oath at Police Lines in Dehradun. He also released the Prosecution Department's magazine and wished citizens on Constitution Day and Law Day, while paying tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

During the event, the Chief Minister announced financial support for the Prosecution Department to help spread awareness about the new criminal laws. Assistance will also be given for the department's digitisation and for training officers in local dialects spoken across the state. Dhami said that the prosecution service is a key part of the justice system, helping maintain truth and transparency.

He noted that November 26, 1949, was a historic day when the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India. Law Day began in 1979 through the efforts of jurist Dr. L.M. Singhvi and the Supreme Court Bar Association. In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to observe the day nationally as Constitution Day, honouring the makers of the Constitution.

Dhami said several major steps are being taken to modernise and strengthen the justice system. He highlighted the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 as important reforms. Projects such as e-Courts, the National Judicial Data Grid, fast-track courts, teleconferencing, and digital case management are making justice faster and more accessible.

He added that Uttarakhand is upgrading court buildings, improving digital systems, enhancing legal education, supporting young and women lawyers, and has taken important steps like implementing a strict anti-cheating law and the Uniform Civil Code.

POPPY CRACKDOWN

Massive Operations Destroy Illegal Poppy Fields

IMPHAL

Security forces in Manipur have destroyed more than 675 acres of illegal poppy cultivation this month as part of a major anti-narcotics drive, officials said on Wednesday. The action aims to stop large-scale opium production worth several crores of rupees in the state's mountainous regions.

However, an aerial survey on November 24 revealed over 700 more acres of poppy fields still active in Kangpokpi district. Officials said that teams from the Army, Assam

Rifles, CRPF, BSF and Manipur Police carried out coordinated operations between November 11 and 23 across six hill districts—Kangpokpi, Ukhrul, Tamenglong, Chandel, Tengnoupal and Senapati.

Police estimated that 486 acres of the destroyed fields alone could have yielded nearly 4,600 kg of opium. During the operations, forces also demolished around 100 huts used by cultivators and burnt large quantities of fertilisers, salt sacks, spray pumps, herbicides and pipes found at the sites.

Former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said the expanding poppy cultivation threatens forests, pushes youth into drug abuse and damages the state's environment. Sharing aerial footage on X, he warned that the "Golden Triangle" drug corridor is creeping into India through Manipur. He said massive zones, including forest areas near Mount Koubru, require long-term campaigns for complete clearance.

A Defence spokesperson said operations were carried out under harsh terrain and weather, highlighting the commitment of Assam Rifles and other forces to curb drug-linked financial networks. The state government said the "War against drugs" has reduced identified poppy acreage from over 8,000 acres in 2020, though challenges remain due to the ongoing ethnic crisis and growing drug menace.

QUICK READ

Quake of Magnitude 4.5 Hits Indonesia

Jakarta

A mild earthquake measuring 4.5 struck Northern Sumatra on Wednesday, according to the National Center for Seismology. The tremor occurred at a depth of 150 km. Earlier in October, a stronger 6.6-magnitude quake hit West Papua at a depth of 55 km. Indonesia often experiences earthquakes and volcanic activity because it lies on the Ring of Fire, a large zone around the Pacific Ocean known for active volcanoes and frequent seismic movements.

Pakistani Couple Caught Crossing Border Illegally

Bhuj

A Pakistani couple from Sindh was caught by BSF personnel after crossing the border into Gujarat. They were found near pillars 523 and 524 around 2:50 am and later handed over to Balasar police. Identified as Popatkumar Nathu Bhil, 24, and Gauri Gulab Bhil, 20, they had no identity papers and carried only 100 Pakistani Rupees. Police said they claimed to be lovers facing family opposition. They will be questioned further at the Joint Interrogation Centre in Bhuj.

Indian, US Officials Strengthen Talks on Key Economic Issues

Indian envoy discusses major economic priorities in detailed US meeting

WASHINGTON

India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, held an extensive discussion with Jacob Helberg, the new US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, focusing on strengthening economic ties between the two countries. Kwatra congratulated Helberg on taking charge and said their talks covered areas such as a balanced trade deal, strategic trade dialogue, and collaboration in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.

Helberg, who assumed office in mid-October, earlier served as an Advisor to the Council of Economic Advisors at the White House. He also founded The Hill and Valley Forum, which connected Silicon Valley leaders with US lawmakers to reduce knowledge gaps on technology and policy. The US State Department noted that Helberg has worked with Congressional leaders on national security concerns involving China. He previously served as Senior Advisor to Palantir Technologies' CEO and invested early in several fast-growing tech companies. Between 2022 and 2024, he was a Commissioner on the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, pushing for tariffs and stronger industrial independence from China. He also worked with Google as global lead for Search policy and helped establish GeoQuant.

On November 24, Kwatra met US Representative Jay Obernolte, Chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee. Kwatra said he highlighted growing opportunities for cooperation in science, technology, innovation, and artificial intelligence during their meeting.

Last week, the ambassador met US Senator John Barrasso and discussed the main factors driving the India-US strategic partnership. Kwatra said they spoke about building a fair trade arrangement, boosting oil and gas trade, and strengthening defence and security ties.

Earlier in October, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said India and the US were making steady progress toward a fair and equitable trade agreement, with officials from both sides engaged in continuous discussions.

South Korea Reaffirms Gradual, Peaceful North Korea Policy

SEOUL

South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said on Wednesday that the government will follow a peaceful and gradual approach in its North Korea policy, easing concerns about any radical direction toward Pyongyang. He made the remarks during a meeting with Kim Jong-hyuk, president of the United Christian Churches of Korea, where church leaders expressed worry that the liberal administration might be overly lenient with the North.

Chung firmly rejected these concerns, stating that the government cannot consider "shocking or radical methods" in its dealings with North Korea. He explained that even strong ideas cannot succeed without public support and added that extreme policies would only create public hostility.

He said the government continues to follow three long-standing principles of past liberal administrations — peaceful, phased and gradual methods. Since taking office in June, President Lee Jae Myung has pledged to restart dialogue and build reconciliation with Pyongyang. Last week, the defence ministry suggested holding military talks with the North to clarify the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) and prevent accidental border clashes. So far, North Korea has not responded. On November 20, the ruling Democratic Party urged Pyongyang to accept the proposal, saying it would help reduce tensions along the border.

South Korea stresses calm, step-by-step engagement with North Korea, rejecting fears of any sudden or aggressive policy shift under President Lee Jae Myung's administration.

The issue has gained urgency as North Korean soldiers have repeatedly crossed the MDL while working near the border, sometimes while armed. South Korea responded by issuing warnings and firing warning shots when boundary violations occurred.

If accepted, the talks would be the first military dialogue between the two Koreas since 2018. Since 2000, the two sides have held two ministerial-level meetings, 40 working-level sessions and several general-level military talks, though progress has often stalled due to rising tensions.

Taiwan Announces Major Defence Budget Increase

TAIPEI

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te has unveiled plans to seek a USD 40 billion supplementary defence budget to counter growing military pressure from China. In an op-ed published in the Washington Post, Lai said Taiwan remains committed to peace in the Indo-Pacific region, even as Chinese forces frequently enter its vicinity and conduct drills across the first island chain from Japan to Borneo. He warned that China's expanding military activities in the Taiwan Strait and wider region show how fragile peace has become.

Lai said the new budget will support major US arms purchases and strengthen Taiwan's "asymmetrical capabilities," including development of the Taiwan Dome, an advanced air-defence system designed for high-level detection and interception. The proposed budget will be spread over eight years, from 2026 to 2033, and follows Lai's earlier pledge to raise defence spending to 5 percent of Taiwan's GDP in response to continued Chinese threats.

The move also comes at a time when the US administration under President Donald Trump has pressed defence partners, including Taiwan, to increase their own military spending. Lai said the upgraded capabilities aim to raise the cost and risk for Beijing if it considers using force.

China condemned the move, with officials accusing Lai of "selling out Taiwan" and reaffirming that Taiwan is part of China. Tensions rose further after Japan hinted at possible military involvement in a Taiwan conflict, prompting Beijing to halt seafood talks and demand Tokyo clarify its stance.

IMF Criticises Pak over Fiscal Gaps and Transparency Issues

ISLAMABAD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has strongly criticised Pakistan for its weak financial management and lack of transparency in handling public money. The IMF said Pakistan continues to show serious problems in budget planning, spending control, and coordination between key financial institutions. This criticism comes even as the country is working under its 24th IMF programme with the Ministry of Finance. The IMF's Governance and Corruption Diagnosis Assessment (GCDA) stated that Pakistan has long struggled with "weak budget credibility." This means the government often fails to follow its own budget plans, leading to delays in development projects and higher costs. The IMF was also concerned about the poor monitoring of state-owned enterprises and public investment, which increases the risk of corruption and misuse of authority.

The Fund pointed out a major issue in Pakistan's Single Treasury Account (TSA) system, which is meant to manage government money in a transparent manner.

India France Air Forces Conduct Joint Exercise Garuda

PARIS

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and French Air and Space Force (FASF) are conducting the 8th edition of the bilateral air exercise, Garuda 25, at Mont-de-Marsan in France, showcasing advanced operational skills and cooperation. The exercise, which runs from November 16 to 27, focuses on enhancing interoperability, exchanging best practices, and strengthening defence ties between the two countries.

According to the IAF, the exercise has seen Su-30MKI fighter jets from India and Rafale aircraft from France performing coordinated missions, including air-to-air combat, air defence, and joint strike operations. The exercise maintains a high operational tempo, emphasizing professionalism, precision, and teamwork to foster effective cooperation in complex simulated scenarios.

The Ministry of Defence stated that airlift support is being provided by the C-17 Globemaster III for the induction and de-induction phases, while IL-78 refuelling tankers extend the operational range and endurance of participating aircraft. This allows both air forces to conduct extended missions, refining tactics and procedures in a realistic operational environment.

Exercise Garuda 25 also offers opportunities for professional interaction and knowledge sharing between personnel of both countries. According to the IAF, the exercise enables mutual learning, strengthens defence cooperation, and deepens strategic partnerships through practical operational experience.

Participation in the exercise demonstrates India's commitment to engaging constructively with friendly foreign air forces, promoting mutual understanding, and enhancing joint operational capabilities.

Sindh Healthcare System Suffers From Long-Term Neglect

KARACHI

Sindh's public healthcare system continues to struggle even after seven decades of Pakistan's independence.

Most district hospitals still lack essential diagnostic and emergency facilities, exposing major gaps in governance, planning, and medical management.

Despite receiving budgets for medicines, hospitals remain dependent on Karachi's main centres due to the absence of key services.

In 2000, the government proposed affiliating four district hospitals with Dow Medical College to upgrade them into teaching hospitals.

The plan required senior professors from Dow to treat patients in district facilities.

However, the proposal was never implemented. As a result, district hospitals still offer only basic treatments and routine tests.

Services such as MRI, CT scans, PET-T, and colour Doppler are unavailable, pushing thousands of patients toward Karachi's Civil Hospital and Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, which handle nearly 6,000 outpatients daily.

Hospitals in New Karachi, Liaquatabad, Korangi, Saudabad, and Ibrahim Hyderi operate without major diagnostic tools.

Rural health centres and maternity homes face similar shortages, causing delays in diagnosis and heavier pressure on tertiary hospitals.

Patients shared painful experiences.

Muhammad Aslam from New Karachi said he was referred to Jinnah Hospital for an MRI but received a month-long waiting date, forcing him to spend Rs 20,000 at a private centre.

Aliya from Malir described how her sister, suffering from uterine cancer, had to depend on charity for tests because Saudabad Hospital lacked MRI and biopsy services.

Hospital officials confirmed the situation, noting that machines bought earlier still lie unused and trauma centres remain closed due to staff shortages.

The deepening crisis in Sindh reflects Pakistan's larger healthcare failures, where corruption, indifference, and weak administration continue to deny poor patients timely and basic medical care.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	7	4		8		1		5
	9		2		3	4	6	
5		6		1	7			8
6		8		2		9		3
1	4		7		5			2
2		7		6	9		4	1
4		5		7		8		9
		2		4		7		6
	8	3	6		1		5	

8	2	1	4	9	3	7	5	6
3	7	6	1	5	2	8	4	9
5	9	4	7	8	6	3	2	1
6	5	8	9	3	7	2	1	4
1	3	2	8	6	4	9	7	5
9	4	7	2	1	5	6	8	3
4	8	3	5	7	9	1	6	2
7	6	5	3	2	1	4	9	8
2	1	9	6	4	8	5	3	7

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

SENIORS DAY

KOT Hosts Seniors Day Celebration Successfully

TORONTO

The Konkan Organization of Toronto (KOT) hosted its second Seniors Day event at St. Philip Neri Church in North York. The programme aimed to celebrate senior members of the Konkan community and provide them with useful guidance on cybersecurity, legacy planning, taxes, mental health, and international finance. The event also highlighted community bonding through a Konkani Mass and traditional Mangalorean food.

The programme opened with a welcome by Emcee Gerry D'Mello, followed by remarks from KOT president Melwyn Sequeira. He stressed the importance of supporting seniors, who often deal with scams, limited awareness of financial benefits, and mental health challenges. He reaffirmed KOT's commitment to ensuring their safety and well-being.

The first session, led by Chethan Bharadwaj, focused on cybersecurity and warned seniors about fraud attempts through unknown messages and urgent financial requests. The second session, by Eric Orr, explained legacy planning and ways to reduce estate taxes, including naming beneficiaries and preparing multiple wills.

A Konkani Mass celebrated by Fr Henry Alva, along with deacons Terrence Rebello and Sarfaraz Pinto, brought the community together before lunch featuring dishes prepared by Mango Mirchi and KOT members.

After lunch, Nelson D'Costa spoke about international money transfers and clarified tax rules under Canada's reporting laws. The final session by Nikki Barruh stressed mental wellness, encouraging fitness, mindfulness, and social interaction.

A vote of thanks by Communications Coordinator Anoushka Dias acknowledged priests, volunteers, speakers, choir members, and food contributors. KOT also expressed special gratitude to Manoj D'Cunha for coordinating food and sessions, making the event memorable for all attendees.

Revanth Reddy seeks defence corridor for Hyderabad

Revanth Reddy hailed the ₹1,300 crore project as a milestone, creating 1,000+ jobs and boosting local businesses

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare the Bengaluru–Hyderabad stretch as a defence and aerospace corridor, saying it will strengthen India's Viksit Bharat vision and boost high technology manufacturing.

He made the appeal while inaugurating Safran's largest Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul centre for CFM LEAP aircraft engines in Hyderabad. The Safran Aircraft Engine Services India facility is coming up at GMR Aero-Park near Shamshabad and is expected to become operational in 2026.

Revanth Reddy said the project marks a major milestone for the state's aerospace journey. Built with an investment of around ₹1,300 crore, the centre will employ more than 1,000 skilled engineers and technicians. It will also create fresh business opportunities for local MSMEs and precision engineering companies.

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for Safran's M88 military engine MRO facility, which will support the Indian Air Force and the Navy. He said Hyderabad has already grown into a strong defence and aerospace hub with over 25 global companies and more than 1,500 MSMEs working in this sector.

He highlighted that Telangana's aerospace and defence exports doubled last year, touching ₹30,742 crore in just nine months and crossing pharma exports for the first time. He added that the state has won the Best State Award for Aerospace several times.

Revanth Reddy stressed that skilled manpower is key to future growth. Telangana has upgraded 100 ITIs into advanced technology centres and launched the Young India Skills University to train youth in aircraft maintenance and advanced manufacturing.

He invited Safran to join hands in skilling programmes and also invited the Prime Minister to attend the Telangana Rising 2047 Global Summit in December at the upcoming Bharat Future City. He said the proposed corridor will link industries, research centres and airports, helping India build a strong, self-reliant aerospace supply chain for future growth.

QUICK READ

Empowering youth with future digital skills

New delhi

Nasscom Foundation and IBM have joined hands to help 87,000 young people from marginalised communities gain useful digital skills. Through this partnership, students will access IBM SkillsBuild, a free platform offering simple, hands-on courses in AI, cybersecurity, cloud tools, data work, and workplace skills. Nasscom Foundation will guide learners closely to keep them engaged and confident. The programme blends online lessons with projects, mentorship, and support from universities and local partners. These efforts aim to prepare youth for real jobs and give them clearer paths into India's growing digital workforce, opening doors to stronger futures for them and their communities.

Sebi plans easier rules for lost certificates

New delhi

Sebi has proposed raising the limit for simplified paperwork when investors request duplicate security certificates. The threshold may increase to ₹10 lakh from the current ₹5 lakh to reduce confusion caused by different documentation demands from companies and their registrars. Sebi said investors often struggle because requirements are not standardised. The earlier limit was fixed years ago, when the market was smaller. Since then, India's markets have grown in value, participation, and portfolio sizes. The relaxed rule would let more investors avoid filing FIRs, police complaints, court orders, or newspaper ads, making the process faster and easier.

India's earnings surge boosts Nifty towards 29,000

Mumbai

India is entering a much-awaited earnings upgrade phase, driven by strong corporate results, festive demand, supportive policies, and an improving economy, according to a report. Nifty earnings have risen 0.7–1.3% for FY26–28 after five quarters of declines. The index has gained 4% in three months, reflecting growing investor optimism. Corporate sales rose 8.1%, with profits up 16.4%, surpassing estimates. Key sectors performing well include banks, healthcare, consumer goods, automobiles, defence, cement, and telecom. With GST rate cuts boosting spending and ongoing capital expenditure, Nifty is projected to reach 29,094, signaling a revival in India's market and corporate growth.

Delayed MSME payments fall with strong policies

NEW DELHI

The amount of delayed payments owed to India's micro, small and medium enterprises has shown a steady fall, offering hope to millions of small business owners. A new report says overdue payments dropped from Rs 10.7 lakh crore in 2022 to Rs 7.34 lakh crore by March 2024, after adjusting for inflation. In 2023, the figure stood at Rs 8.27 lakh crore.

The report was prepared by the Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship, FISME and C2FO India. It was released in the presence of Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran and MSME Ministry Joint Secretary Ateesh Kumar Singh. Nageswaran said the use of the TReDS platform for invoice discounting has grown strongly, reaching Rs 2.4 lakh crore from almost zero earlier. He added that while progress is clear, efforts must continue without slowing down.

Ateesh Kumar Singh pointed out that MSMEs still struggle to get enough, timely and low cost credit. He said gaps exist across gender, region, law and business sectors, and these must be studied deeply to find real solutions.

The report suggested several steps to further reduce payment delays. It called for strict use of Section 43B to penalize late payers and for making names of repeated defaulters public. It also asked the government to make TReDS the main payment platform by linking it with GST and Udyam records.

It recommended faster dispute settlement through stronger Facilitation Councils and institutional arbitration. It also urged reforms in bank stress labels to avoid blocking healthy firms. The report further stressed the need for digital loans using GST and UPI data and improving the Samadhaan portal with automation and updates.

Minister praised MCA for modernizing laws, advancing insolvency reforms, and strengthening corporate governance and trust

Sitharaman calls for faster modern governance reforms

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India modernise systems and simplify processes to reach developed nation status by 2047. She spoke during a review meeting of corporate offices and regional directorates held in the national capital recently.

Sitharaman said governance today should be easy transparent and focused on helping people and businesses without unnecessary delays. She asked Ministry of Corporate Affairs to become more forward looking and deliver services to stakeholders on time. Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra and senior officers of the ministry also attended the important discussion meeting.

The Finance Minister praised MCA for updating company laws and rules to

match changing economic and business conditions. She mentioned the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code as a reform helping companies resolve financial stress in cleaner ways. Sitharaman said better corporate governance improved public trust by sharing clear and transparent financial information with citizens nationwide.

She also highlighted MCA role in guiding companies to follow proper rules and maintain strong internal governance structures.

Malhotra reminded officials about prime minister vision of maximum governance and minimum government for faster public service delivery. He said regular talks with stakeholders will help solve problems quickly and improve overall trust in government processes. The MCA Secretary shared that enforcement manuals are now standardised and further rule simplification is already under progress.

Sitharaman also directed the ministry to create a live dashboard for improving transparency and monitoring daily performance levels. She told officials to explain rules clearly to businesses and citizens using simple language and easy communication methods.

The minister urged frequent internal discussions to find new ideas for improving ease of doing business across India.

ICAR denies bias in gene edited rice trials

NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has strongly denied claims that it showed bias while evaluating two gene edited rice varieties, Pusa DST-1 and DRR Dhan 100, also known as Kamala. The clarification came after a group called the Coalition for a GM-Free India accused ICAR of unfair testing in national trials conducted during 2023 and 2024.

ICAR said these claims are misleading and not based on proper science. It explained that rice varieties are not designed to perform the same in all parts of India. Instead, each variety is meant for specific regions where climate and soil conditions suit it best. The coalition had wrongly compared results from all over the country, which ICAR called incorrect and unrealistic.

The council shared details about its long-standing testing system. Every year, over 1,200 new rice varieties are sent to around 100 trial centers across India under a blind coding method. This means the names of varieties are hidden during testing to avoid any bias. These trials run for two to three years to check yield, quality, and resistance to drought or disease. This system has been followed since 1965.

ICAR also pointed out that more than 1,750 rice varieties have been released using this process in the past decades.

Out of these, 350 varieties are now grown on about 47 million hectares of farmland across the country, helping millions of farmers earn better incomes and grow stronger crops.

The two gene edited rice varieties were tested mainly in South Indian states, which match their target performance zones. According to ICAR, both varieties have shown better yield and stronger tolerance to stress in these areas.

MINING MONEY MAGNET

Government auctions three coal blocks for investments

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Coal has successfully auctioned three coal blocks located in Jharkhand and Odisha under the 13th round of commercial coal mine bidding. According to an official statement, these auctions are expected to bring in an investment of around Rs 7,350 crore in the coming years.

The three coal blocks are Pirpainti Barahat and Dhulia North in Jharkhand, and Mandakini-B in Odisha. Damodar Valley Corporation emerged as the highest bidder for all three blocks. Together, these mines hold geological reserves of about 3,306.58 million tonnes of coal and have the capacity to produce up to 49 million tonnes per year at their peak.

The government said these blocks are likely to generate annual revenue of nearly Rs 4,620.69 crore and create about 66,248 job opportunities, mainly in coal-bearing regions. This is expected to help local communities by providing more work and improving economic activity.

Since commercial coal mining started in 2020, a total of 136 coal blocks have been auctioned across the country. These blocks have a combined production capacity of

over 325 million tonnes per year. Once all of them become operational, they are expected to reduce India's dependence on imported coal and support the goal of becoming self-reliant in the energy sector.

The 13th round of coal block auctions was launched on August 21, and the forward bidding process took place between November 20 and November 25. The process was done online in two stages, starting with technical evaluation and followed by competitive price bidding.

The ministry said recent reforms have made coal mining more transparent and open. Private companies can now mine coal for commercial sale, instead of only for their own use. These changes aim to boost production, attract investment, and strengthen India's coal sector for the future.

Seoul plans special body for US investment

SEOUL

South Korea has announced plans to set up a special government corporation to manage its massive 350 billion dollar investment in the United States. This move follows a recent tariff agreement between Seoul and Washington aimed at boosting economic ties and reducing trade barriers.

The proposed body, to be called the Korea United States Strategic Investment Corporation, will manage a special fund and is planned to operate for up to twenty years. A special bill for its creation has been introduced by the ruling Democratic Party.

Under the agreement, South Korea will invest 200 billion dollars in cash over time, with a yearly limit of 20 billion dollars. An additional 150 billion dollars will support joint shipbuilding projects between the two countries.

In return, the United States has agreed to cut tariffs on South Korean cars from 25 percent to 15 percent. The reduced rate will apply from the month the bill is submitted, and Seoul has requested Washington to publish this decision quickly.

India Slovenia push for early EU trade

NEW DELHI

Officials from India and Slovenia reviewed trade, explored deeper economic ties, with Saket Kumar and Peter Japelj co-chairing, also discussing future investment opportunities with Rajesh Agrawal

India and Slovenia have expressed strong hope for the early completion of a balanced and mutually beneficial India–European Union Free Trade Agreement. This was shared during the 10th meeting of the India–Slovenia Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation held in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Officials from both countries reviewed the current trade situation and discussed ways to deepen economic ties. The meeting was co-chaired by Saket Kumar from India's Ministry of Commerce and Peter Japelj from Slovenia's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Japelj also met Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal to talk about future trade and investment opportunities.

The Commerce Ministry said trade between India and Slovenia has been growing steadily over the past few years. This shows the strong and stable partnership between the two nations. Slovenia's central location in Europe was highlighted as a big advantage. It connects Central Europe with nearby regions and can help India expand its reach across European markets.

Both sides discussed cooperation in many important sectors. These included agriculture, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, health, transport, energy, tourism, MSMEs, Ayurveda, and traditional medicine. They also spoke about working together in technology, innovation, and improving trade connectivity.

The meeting also included talks on the current global and domestic economic situation. Officials reviewed how changing world conditions are affecting trade and how both countries can support each other during uncertain times.

India reaffirmed its commitment to building a strong and long-term economic partnership with Slovenia. The focus will be on trust, shared values, and steady cooperation. The meeting ended with both countries agreeing to stay in close contact and move ahead with clear goals.

The ministry said this strong engagement will also help India strengthen its ties with the larger European region. It added that early completion of the India–EU FTA will open new doors for businesses, create jobs, and support growth in both countries.

Mall operators eye strong growth through expansion

NEW DELHI

India's mall operators are expected to record steady revenue growth of 12 to 14 percent in the current financial year, according to a new report by Crisil Ratings. This comes after a strong 14 percent rise in revenue last year, showing the sector's growing strength and recovery after earlier slowdowns.

The main reason behind this growth is the expansion of new malls and the smooth integration of properties acquired in the last two years. Operators are also benefiting from regular rental increases and better use of available space. Crisil said this growth trend is likely to continue in the next financial year as well, supported by strong performance and controlled debt levels.

The report added that supportive government policies and economic factors are helping consumer spending. These include GST rate cuts, steady economic growth, low inflation, lower interest rates, and a good monsoon, all of which encourage people to spend more in shopping centres.

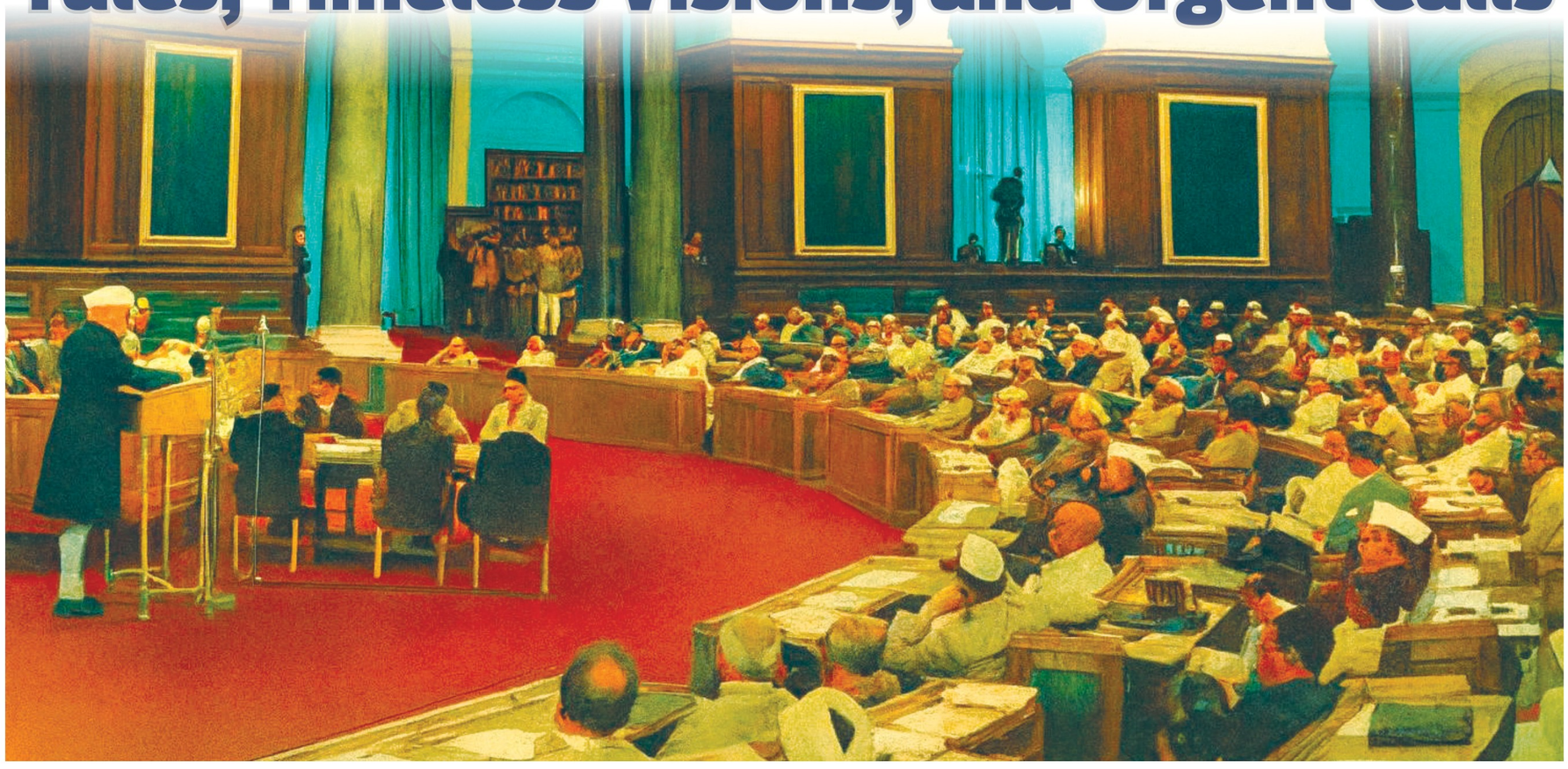
Occupancy levels in malls have also improved. Last year, average occupancy rose by 3.5 percent to reach 93.5 percent. It is expected to touch 94 to 95 percent in both this year and the next. This rise is mainly due to better management of space in malls that were recently built or bought by large groups.

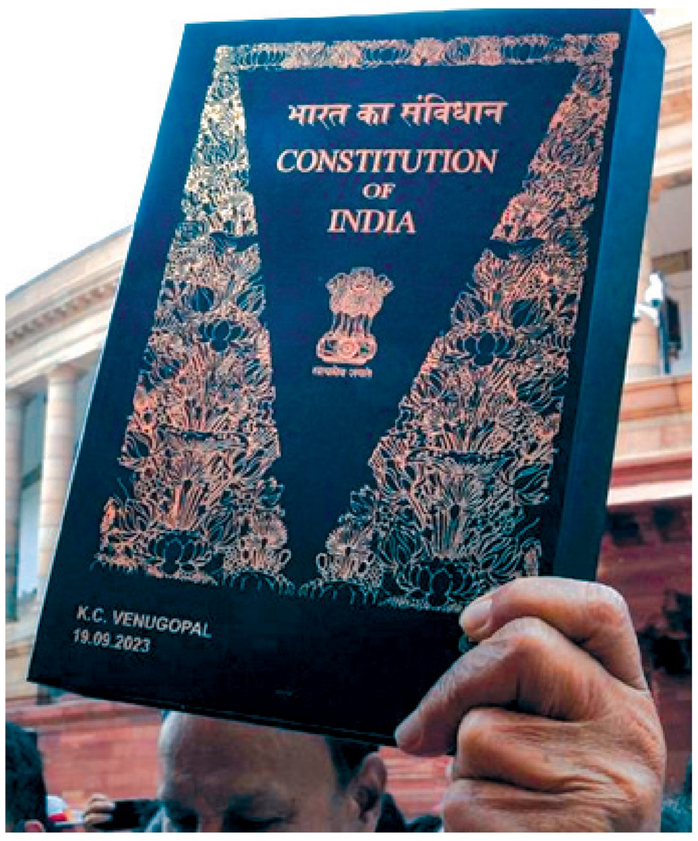
According to Gautam Shahi from Crisil Ratings, major mall developers and REITs have added about 3 million square feet of retail space in the last two years, mainly in Tier 2 cities. This expansion is part of their long-term growth and diversification plans.

He further said that another 4.5 to 5 million square feet of retail space is likely to be added by the year 2027. This additional space could improve annual revenue growth by about four percentage points.

The Enduring Tapestry:

76 Years of India's Constitution – Untold Tales, Timeless Visions, and Urgent Calls





As the winter sun rises over Parliament House, where the debates of 1946–49 still seem to echo, India celebrates its 76th Constitution Day. On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted the document that gave the world its largest democracy. Today, amid fierce debates on social justice, federalism, digital rights, and institutional trust, the Constitution remains not a museum piece but a living guide. This 3,000-word feature explores its dramatic making, its visionary architects, its remarkable length, its evolving amendments, and its relevance in 2025.

The Making of the Indian Constitution: Untold Stories from the Constituent Assembly

The Constitution was not drafted in calm seclusion. Between December 9, 1946, and November 26, 1949, 299 members met for 165 days across 2,973 hours in what is now the Central Hall of Parliament. They were lawyers, poets, revolutionaries, princes, and farmers—many still reeling from Partition's horrors.

Late-night arguments in committee rooms were as crucial as public sessions. A lesser-known member from Punjab pushed hard for land reforms that later shaped the Directive Principles.

Another quietly ensured rural realities found space in a document otherwise dominated by urban elites. Drafting Committee members sifted through more than 7,000 proposed amendments, often clashing over secularism, emergency powers, and a uniform civil code.

One member famously warned during a debate on emergency provisions, "We are forging chains for our own liberty"—a prophetic remark that would haunt the nation in 1975. Another smuggled ideas from Irish and Canadian models while fiercely rejecting colonial remnants. The final product was a revolution achieved without bloodshed: colonial subjects transformed into sovereign citizens through argument, compromise, and extraordinary foresight.

Women in the Constituent Assembly: Their Role and Legacy

Only fifteen women sat in the Assembly—just five percent—yet their contributions were monumental. One became the first Health Minister and insisted on maternity relief and women's health in the Directive Principles. A lone Muslim woman member rose to oppose separate electorates, declaring that differences must be sunk for the larger good—an argument that helped cement Article 14's guarantee of equality.Another fought for Hindu women's inheritance rights, laying the groundwork for the 1956 Hindu Succession Act. One more ensured the Universal Declaration of Human Rights spoke of "all human beings" rather than "all men," and brought the same spirit home. A future diplomat infused the debates with global perspective, while an educationist from the south built institutions that still empower women. Their proposals for women's reservation in legislatures were rejected at the time, yet female voter turnout has now surpassed men's in many states. From triple talaq abolition to rising political participation, their quiet persistence continues to ripple through Indian democracy.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Vision: How Relevant Is It in Today's India?

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee, saw political democracy as meaningless without social and economic democracy. He warned that caste hierarchy would destroy the nation unless deliberately dismantled. Articles 14–18 on equality and the abolition of untouchability remain his direct imprint. His caution that a Constitution is only as good as the people who work it rings truer than ever when over 50,000 crimes against Dalits are recorded annually and economic inequality rivals the Gilded Age.

His push for land reform, education, and inter-caste marriage as tools of emancipation still awaits full realisation. The dream of fraternity he placed at the heart of the Preamble feels especially urgent in an age of polarisation and online hate.

Yet reservations, affirmative action, and expanding educational access have lifted millions—proof that his roadmap still works when followed. In 2025, as India debates AI ethics, climate justice, and wealth redistribution, Ambedkar's emphasis on liberty, equality, and fraternity offers the clearest moral compass available.

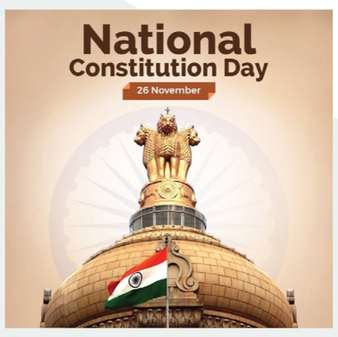
Ambedkar's Legacy: The Compass for Today's India

- Ambedkar linked democracy to essential social and economic equality.
- Caste hierarchy threatens national unity without deliberate dismantling.
- Articles 14–18 reflect Ambedkar's fight for equality.
- Crimes against Dalits show his warnings remain relevant.
- Land reforms and education remain critical unfinished democratic tasks.
- Fraternity vital amid polarisation and growing online hate.

HOW INDIA'S CONSTITUTION BECAME ONE OF THE LONGEST IN THE WORLD

India's Constitution originally contained 395 articles and eight schedules; today it exceeds 470 articles and 146,000 words—longer than the constitutions of the United States, France, and the United Kingdom combined.

The length reflects India's complexity: a country of immense linguistic, religious, and cultural diversity emerging from colonial rule and Partition violence needed detailed safeguards. Federal relations between centre and states, lists of subjects, protections for scheduled castes and tribes, and an entire part on Directive Principles all demanded space. Emergency provisions, amendment procedures, and schedules for languages and territories added further bulk.Critics call it verbose; defenders say its detail has allowed the nation to adapt without violent rupture for seventy-five years. Every major social challenge—land reform, reservation policy, panchayati raj—found constitutional anchoring rather than requiring revolution.



Constitutional Amendments That Shaped Modern India-
More than 106 amendments in 75 years testify to the Constitution's flexibility. The First Amendment (1951) curbed free speech to prevent hate; the 42nd (1976) added "socialist" and "secular" to the Preamble; the 44th (1978) reversed some Emergency excesses. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1992) brought democracy to the grassroots through panchayats and municipalities. The 86th made education a fundamental right.

Each major amendment responded to a crisis or aspiration: land reform battles, linguistic reorganisation, reservation policy, economic liberalisation. The document has grown with the nation rather than ossifying.

How the Indian Judiciary Protects the Spirit of the Constitution
The judiciary has repeatedly stepped in when other organs faltered. The 1973 Kesavananda Bharati verdict established the "basic structure" doctrine: Parliament can amend the Constitution but cannot destroy its core features—democracy, secularism, federalism, judicial review. From striking down unconstitutional amendments during the Emergency to recognising privacy as a fundamental right in 2017 and decriminalising homosexuality in 2018, the courts have expanded the Constitution's promise. Public Interest Litigation has turned the right to clean air, water, and education into realities for millions who never stepped inside a courtroom.

The Indian Constitution vs. Other Democracies: A Comparative Perspective
The U.S. Constitution is short, rigid, and amended only 27 times in over 230 years. Britain has no single written constitution. India chose a third path: detailed yet amendable, borrowing from everywhere yet uniquely its own.

It is more adaptable than the American model, more codified than the British, and far more socially ambitious than most. Where many new democracies collapsed, India endured because its Constitution provided both stability and space for evolution. Its reservation system, linguistic states, and independent judiciary remain models for diverse societies worldwide.

26 November: Why Constitution Day Matters More Than Ever Today
Constitution Day was officially declared in 2015, but November 26 has always been sacred: the day the Constituent Assembly adopted the document in 1949. In 2025, with democratic backsliding visible across the globe, the day carries extra weight. From schoolchildren reading the Preamble in morning assemblies to citizens taking pledges at historic sites, the nation recommits to justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. At a time when misinformation spreads faster than truth and institutions face unprecedented strain, remembering the Constitution is an act of renewal—an affirmation that sovereignty ultimately resides in "We, the People."

A Living Document, A Shared Responsibility
Seventy-six years after its adoption, India's Constitution remains a work in progress—forged in diversity, tempered by crisis, expanded by judicial imagination, and renewed every time citizens choose dialogue over violence.

On this Constitution Day, the message is clear: the document belongs not to lawyers or politicians alone but to every Indian. Its preamble begins with "We, the People."

Youth and the Constitution: Are Students Aware of Their Fundamental Rights?

India has over 600 million citizens below the age of 25, yet surveys repeatedly reveal low awareness of basic rights. Many college students can quote Bollywood dialogues but stumble over Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty) or Article 19 (freedom of speech with reasonable restrictions).

Initiatives in schools and universities are trying to change this through mock parliaments, legal literacy workshops, and street plays.

From Directive Principles to Fundamental Duties: Evaluating India's Civic Responsibility
The Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV) were designed as non-justiciable goals—guides for future governments rather than enforceable rights. Uniform civil code, free legal aid, village panchayats, and protection of the environment all began here. Many have since become law: the Right to Education, MGNREGA, and forest rights legislation owe their existence to these once-aspirational clauses. In 1976, the 42nd Amendment added Fundamental Duties (Article 51A)—a reminder that rights come with responsibilities: to protect the environment, promote harmony.

2026 WC Draw Ensures Top-Ranked Teams Avoid Each Other Until Semifinals

2026 FIFA World Cup seeds top four teams to prevent early clashes during the tournament

GENEVA

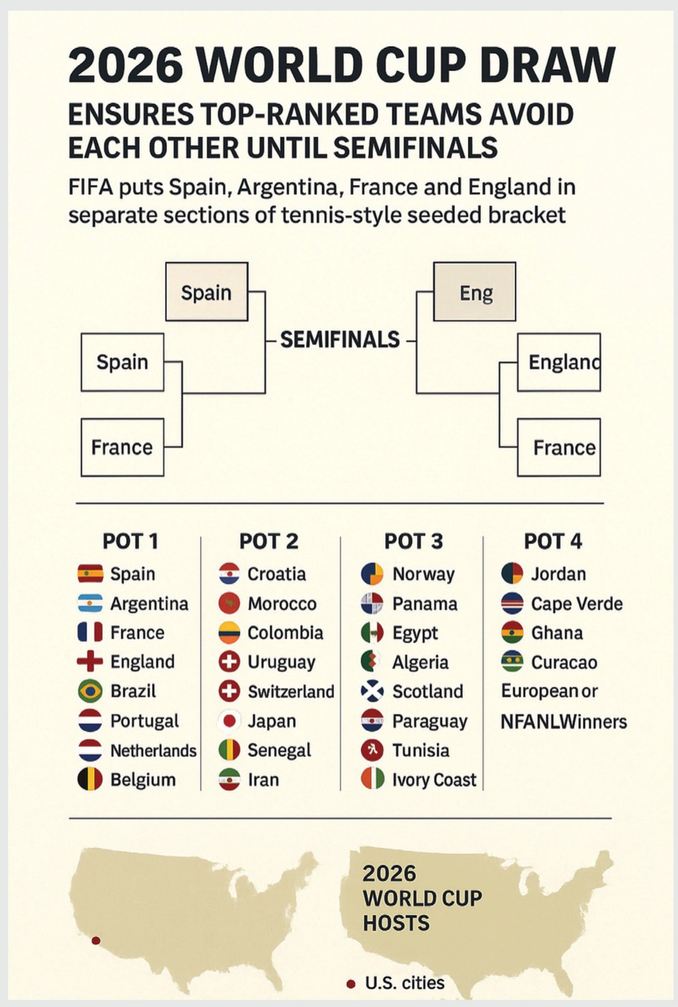
The 2026 FIFA World Cup draw next week will separate the tournament's top four teams — Spain, Argentina, France, and England — ensuring they do not meet until the semifinals, provided they top their respective groups.

FIFA confirmed that this tennis-style seeded bracket is designed to reward teams for consistent performance and world ranking. "To ensure competitive balance, two separate pathways to the semifinals have been established," the governing body said. This format allows defending champions Argentina, led by Lionel Messi, and top-ranked Spain with Lamine Yamal to potentially meet only in the final at MetLife Stadium near New York.

The 48-team tournament, co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico from June 11 to July 19, already has 42 teams qualified, including Iran and Haiti. The remaining six spots will be determined through March 2026 playoffs. European four-time champions Italy could emerge as a challenging addition in the draw's lower-seeded pots.

The draw, scheduled for Dec. 5 at Washington's Kennedy Center with U.S. President Donald Trump in attendance, will place teams into 12 groups of four, following continental rules. Europe has 16 teams, with no more than two in a single group, while other continents cannot have multiple teams in the same group.

The tournament will use 16 host stadiums, including 11 NFL venues in the U.S., three in Mexico, and two in Canada. Co-host nations are included among the 12 top-seeded teams. The U.S. will kick off on June 12 against a pot 3 team.



Estevao Stars in Chelsea Win; Maresca Praises Young Talents

Chelsea's Estevao outshone Yamal in dominant 3-0 Champions League victory

LONDON

Chelsea stunned Barcelona 3-0 at Stamford Bridge, with 18-year-old Estevao leading the charge, as the Premier League side moved into the Champions League top eight. Estevao scored a stunning goal against 10-man Barcelona, outshining Spain's Lamine Yamal in a first showdown between the two highly rated teenagers.

Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca praised both players, stating, "Estevao and Lamine Yamal are probably going to be the next Messi and Ronaldo. But they are just 18—they need to enjoy football and improve every day." Despite Maresca's initial comparison to football legends, he later cautioned that placing such pressure on young stars could be detrimental.

Estevao described his goal as "the most special moment" in his young career. The Brazil international left Barcelona defender Pau Cubarsi behind before scoring with his right foot, putting Chelsea 2-0 up. This marked his third consecutive goal in as many Champions League starts, joining Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland as teenagers to achieve the feat.

Barcelona's Yamal struggled under Marc Cucurella's tight marking, highlighting Chelsea's defensive discipline. Cucurella, a teammate of both young stars, praised Estevao's personality and rapid adjustment to European football since his summer move from Palmeiras.

Chelsea's win was also lauded by Raphinha, Estevao's Brazil teammate at Barcelona, who believes both youngsters will contest the world's best player title in years to come.

With the victory, Chelsea consolidate their position in the Champions League knockout race, while Estevao's rise continues to capture global attention. Maresca emphasized the importance of allowing young talents to develop at their own pace, hinting at a bright future for both Estevao and Yamal.

Riaz Confident India Can Shine at Junior Hockey WC in TN

CHENNAI

Former India captain and two-time Olympian Mohammed Riaz has expressed strong confidence in the national junior men's hockey team ahead of the FIH Junior World Cup, set to be played in Tamil Nadu from November 28.

"We have a good team that covers all the bases," Riaz said. "If they play to their potential, no one can stop them. The boys have been together for six to eight months, and their coordination and combinations are coming along well." Riaz acknowledged India's recent practice loss to Argentina but clarified that the team was experimenting with combinations. "In practice matches, we don't always field the full-strength team. These games are for testing combinations, and preparations are going smoothly," he said.

Joshna, Abhay Lead India's Charge as Chennai Hosts Squash World Cup

CHENNAI

India will showcase its squash talent when the 2025 SDAT-Squash World Cup takes center stage in Chennai from December 9 to 14. Former World No. 10 Joshna Chinappa and India's men's No. 1 player Abhay Singh will spearhead the hosts' campaign in the marquee event, which is sponsored by the Tamil Nadu Government.

All five World Squash Continental Federations will feature, with teams from Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania, and Panamericana. India will compete alongside countries including Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt, South Africa, Poland, Switzerland, Australia, and Brazil. The opening ceremony on December 8 at Express Avenue Mall will be graced by Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, World Squash President Zena Wooldridge, CEO William Louis-Marie, and European Squash President Thomas Troedsson. N Ramachandran, chairman of the Championship Committee, lauded the Tamil Nadu Government and venue partner Express Avenue Mall for their support.

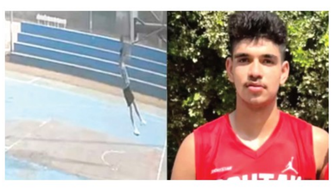
The event also celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Indian Squash Academy. Teams of two men and two women will compete in ties consisting of four matches, best-of-five games. The fast-paced scoring system introduced in the previous edition—games to seven with sudden-death tiebreaks—remains in place.

Egypt enters as defending champions, having edged Malaysia in last year's final. Hosts India aim higher this year. Abhay, focusing on one match at a time, said, "The home crowd support propels you to give your best. We all will give our best shot to win the title."

For Velavan Senthilkumar, it is his World Cup debut, while Joshna brings vital experience to the squad.

16-yr-old player dies in tragic pole fall

ROHTAK



A 16-year-old national-level basketball player, Hardik Rathi, tragically died when the iron pole of a basketball hoop collapsed on him at a sports complex in Lakhan Majra village, Rohtak. Teammates immediately rushed Rathi to the hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries during treatment, according to local SHO Samarjeet Singh. CCTV footage revealed that Rathi had reached for the hoop while practicing alone when the pole fell, crushing him under its weight. Fellow players present at the complex attempted to assist him, but the accident proved fatal.

The incident sparked outrage, prompting the Haryana government to convene a high-level review meeting.

At just 21, Ukrainian sumo star Aonishiki nears sumo's highest honor

Ukrainian Wrestler Aonishiki Reaches Japan's Elite Sumo Rank

TOKYO

Ukrainian wrestler Aonishiki Arata, born Danilo Yavhushyshyn in Vinnytsia, has been promoted to ozeki, the rank just below the prestigious yokozuna, in Japan's national sport. The promotion came in an elaborate ceremony Wednesday organized by the Japan Sumo Association.

Currently, only two yokozuna hold the top rank: Japan's Onosato and Mongolia-born Hoshoryu. "I'm happy but I feel more strongly about working harder from now on," Aonishiki said. "There is a higher rank, and that's my next goal."

Aonishiki's rise has been meteoric. Having moved to Japan after Russia's invasion of Ukraine three and a half years ago, he is now the fastest wrestler to reach ozeki since 1958 under the modern tournament system, winning only 14 tournaments along the way. His promotion was solidified after defeating Hoshoryu in a major tournament in western Japan.

Though smaller than many sumo wrestlers, weighing between 125 and 135 kilograms, Aonishiki compensates with technique and strength, maintaining a low stance and bench pressing 210 kilograms—almost 50% more than his body weight. He credits his success to supportive parents, who now live safely in Germany, and his dedication to learning Japanese rapidly while living exclusively among Japanese wrestlers. His fluency and discipline have earned him wide public admiration.

Non-Japanese athletes have periodically dominated sumo, including Mongolians and Hawaiians. Ukraine, with a strong Olympic wrestling tradition, now adds Aonishiki and fellow high-ranking wrestler Shishi Masaru to that list.

"I have to be bigger and still learn a lot more about sumo," Aonishiki said. "This is only the beginning."

Guardiola Admits Overhaul Backfired as Leverkusen Stuns Manchester City

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

Manchester City's bold team overhaul backfired as Bayer Leverkusen stunned the Premier League champions 2-0 in Champions League clash at the Etihad Stadium. The defeat marked back-to-back losses for City, raising questions over Guardiola's decision to make 10 changes, including leaving star striker Erling Haaland out of the starting lineup for the first time this season.

"I take absolutely full responsibility," Guardiola said. "It was too much. It was the first time in my life I've done it and it was too much."

Leverkusen took the lead in the 23rd minute through Alejandro Grimaldo, and Patrik Schick doubled the advantage in the 54th. Guardiola reacted at halftime by making three substitutions, but even Haaland's introduction could not turn the game around. City now has five losses in all competitions this season and faces mounting pressure ahead of its next Champions League match against Real Madrid on December 10. Guardiola defended his approach, saying, "Everybody has to be involved… but maybe it was too much, seeing the result."

Leverkusen coach Kasper Hjulmand praised his team's performance. "No matter who they put on the pitch, it's a quality team. We did well," he said. Guardiola's decision follows City's weekend Premier League defeat to Newcastle, and the manager admitted that trying to rotate so many players simultaneously disrupted team cohesion. "You cannot play Erling all the time for 95 minutes," he said. While it was City's first Champions League loss this term, the result could affect their group standings depending on Wednesday's fixtures. The setback echoes last season's mid-campaign slump that derailed City's title defense.

Lakshya Sen

Credits Mental Training for Turnaround

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen ended a tough season on a high, rediscovering form and confidence with his Australian Open Super 500 victory.

CHENNAI

India's premier singles shuttler Lakshya Sen capped a challenging season by winning the Australian Open Super 500 in Sydney. The victory ended a title drought for the 24-year-old from Almora, who endured 11 first-round exits earlier this year due to injuries and inconsistent form.

"After the Olympics, it was hard to find motivation again," Lakshya said in a media interaction. "I had to focus on the process, enjoy training and playing, and not think too much about results."

The 2021 World Championships bronze medallist struggled with back issues and high-intensity workloads during tournaments in Singapore and Indonesia. Smart load management and strength sessions helped him overcome the physical hurdles.

Lakshya credited mental trainer Mon Brockman of Israel for helping him regain confidence and motivation. "I took a step back and started enjoying the process again," he said. "Once I focused on the basics in training and playing, I felt much better on court." His season improved with a runner-up finish at the Hong Kong Open, followed by deep runs in Denmark, Hylo Open, and Japan Masters before culminating in the Australian Open triumph.

Looking ahead, Lakshya is keen to maintain his momentum. "Competition is high, but I want to focus on what I can do right in the next few months," he said. "I will take it one match at a time, keep enjoying the game, and continue building on this form for the next season."

The shuttler's candid reflection highlights the importance of mental resilience and process-oriented training in elite sports.

Serena Williams' Ex-Coach Defends Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner

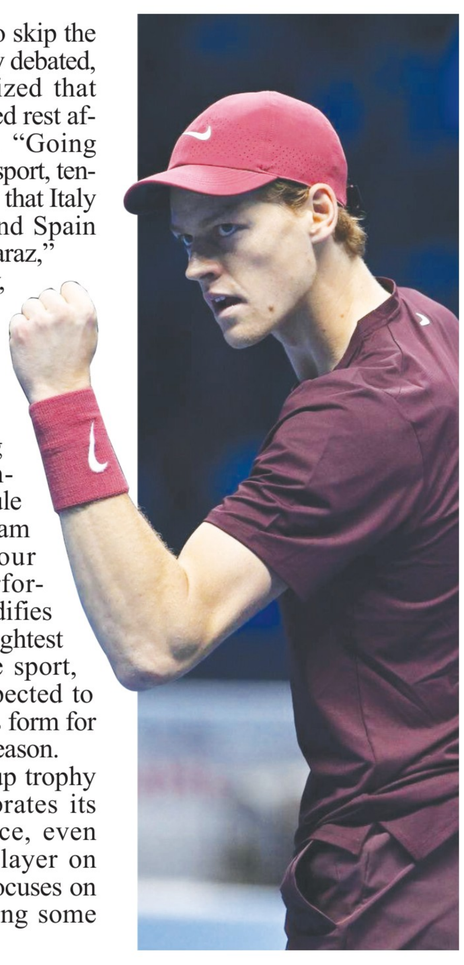
BOLOGNA FIERE

Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner has been given a reprieve from criticism after Italy clinched their third consecutive Davis Cup without him, with Serena Williams' former coach Rennae Stubbs offering a supportive perspective. Stubbs said Sinner was "just exhausted" after a marathon 2025 campaign.

"He's had an incredibly long year," Stubbs said. "He's just won the last tournament of the year. Of course he needs a break." Sinner, 23, captured six titles from ten finals this season, including the Australian Open, Wimbledon, Paris Masters, ATP Finals, and two ATP 500 events. Co-host Caitlin Thompson highlighted how Italy and Spain have been central in men's tennis over the past year. "Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz contested three Majors finals and the ATP Finals. Even absent from the Davis Cup Finals, it still came down to Italy and Spain," she noted.

Sinner's decision to skip the Davis Cup was widely debated, but Stubbs emphasized that elite players often need rest after packed seasons. "Going back to what is a real sport, tennis… it's pretty funny that Italy won without him, and Spain also did not have Alcaraz," Stubbs said. Currently, Sinner is taking a well-deserved vacation in the Maldives, recharging after an intense schedule of Grand Slam finals and tour events. His performance this year solidifies him as one of the brightest young talents in the sport, and the break is expected to help him maintain his form for the upcoming 2026 season.

With the Davis Cup trophy secured, Italy celebrates its continued dominance, even without their star player on court, while Sinner focuses on recovery and enjoying some downtime.



SA Seals Historic Test Series Triumph in India

SA's dominant performance ends India's long home supremacy with emphatic series sweep

GUWAHATI

South Africa clinched its first Test series win in India since 2000 with a commanding 408-run victory in the second Test at Guwahati, completing a 2-0 sweep that showcased exceptional bowling discipline and tactical superiority. Off-spinner Simon Harmer delivered a career-best 6-37 as India was bundled out for 140 in its second innings, collapsing under sustained pressure on the final day.

The Proteas had earlier set a daunting target of 549 runs after posting 489 and 260/5 declared across their two innings. India, having folded for 201 in the first innings and conceding a hefty 288-run lead, never found its footing in the chase. From 90-5 at tea on Wednesday, the hosts lost five wickets in just over an hour, summarily defeated before the lunch interval.

This landmark series victory is South Africa's only second in India in 25 years, the previous one coming under Hansie Cronje in 2000 when they beat the Sachin Tendulkar-led side 2-0. Since then, the Proteas had won only two of 13 Tests in India before rewriting their record in Kolkata and Guwahati this year. Harmer emerged as the architect of the triumph with 17 wickets across the two Tests, including his maiden five-wicket haul in India. Aiden Markram set a world record with nine catches in the Guwahati Test, the most by any fielder in a single match. For India, Ravindra Jadeja's fighting 54 off 87 balls offered brief resistance, but the absence of injured captain Shubman Gill loomed large.

INDIA'S SCORES:
1st Innings: 201
2nd Innings: 140
VICTORY MARGIN:
408 runs

Temba Bavuma strengthened his impressive leadership record, now boasting 11 wins from 12 Tests, including the 2025 World Test Championship title. The match also marked a milestone for India as Guwahati's Barsapara Stadium became the nation's 30th Test venue.

Series Result:
- South Africa: 2
- India: 0

Top Performer (SA):
- Simon Harmer – 17 wickets (Career-best 6-37)

Record Alert:
- Aiden Markram – 9 catches (Most ever by a fielder in a Test)

Calls Grow for Change, but Gambhir Dismisses Talk of Stepping Down

GUWAHATI

Fans and analysts online sharply questioned Gambhir's future and continuation as head coach

Calls for Gautam Gambhir's resignation grew louder on Wednesday after India suffered another crushing Test series defeat at home, this time a 2-0 whitewash against South Africa. The loss in Guwahati, by a staggering 408 runs, also marked India's heaviest defeat in terms of runs in Test history. Yet, the Indian head coach made it clear he has no plans to walk away.

On social media, fans, analysts and writers questioned whether Gambhir should continue in the role. Blogger and podcaster John Wright pointed out that India had now endured "second Test match series home whitewash defeats in 12 months", referencing last year's drubbing by New Zealand. Journalist Gowhar Geelani noted India's persistent slump, highlighting that the team has now lost 10 of the 18 Tests under Gambhir, including 5-0 at home across two series and a 3-1 defeat in Australia.

Despite the rising criticism, Gambhir remained composed during the post-match press conference. "It is up to the BCCI to decide my future," he said, reiterating that he would not make an emotional decision. He reminded critics of India's strong performances earlier in the year, including the Champions Trophy triumph and the hard-fought 2-2 series draw in England.

"The blame lies with everyone and starts with me," Gambhir said, admitting India's batting collapse from 95/1 to 122/7 was unacceptable. However, he refused to single out players, maintaining that responsibility must be shared.

Gambhir's selection strategies have been under scrutiny, particularly his preference for all-rounders and frequent changes to the playing XI. Defending his philosophy, he said Test cricket demanded "tough characters with limited skills" who could withstand pressure and play long innings.

For now, the decision rests with the BCCI, but Gambhir has made his stance clear — he isn't stepping aside voluntarily.

LOVE UNFAZED BY SHOULDER INJURY AS PACKERS PUSH ON

GREEN BAY

Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love says he won't "sugarcoat" the fact that he is playing through a non-throwing shoulder injury, but maintains it shouldn't limit his performance as the team enters a demanding stretch of games. Love injured his left shoulder during a scramble against the New York Giants on November 16, briefly leaving the field before returning to lead the Packers to a 27-20 win. He also started last Sunday's 23-6 victory over the Minnesota Vikings, though he handled all exchanges with his right hand. "It's one of those injuries I'm able to play through," Love said on Tuesday. "Any time you fall on it, you feel it, but nothing that holds me back."

This is the second time this season Love has dealt with an issue on his non-throwing arm; left-thumb surgery in August forced him to get comfortable using only his right hand for handoffs — a habit he slipped into again last weekend.

Pant Warns Against Taking Home Cricket for Granted

GUWAHATI

Stand-in captain Rishabh Pant conceded that India must evolve quickly as a Test side after suffering a crushing 408-run defeat to South Africa in the second Test. The loss marked South Africa's first away whitewash in India since Hansie Cronje's team achieved the feat in the 1999-2000 season and exposed India's vulnerability even in familiar conditions.

"It's a little disappointing. As a team, we need to get better," Pant said during the post-match presentation. "You can't take cricket for granted just because you're playing at home. They dominated the series, and we must give them credit."

Pant emphasised that India must reflect on their shortcomings and rebuild with clarity. "We need to take the learning and stick as a team. Cricket demands that you capitalise on key moments, and we didn't do that," he said, noting that India failed to sustain pressure throughout the series.

South African skipper Temba Bavuma hailed the emphatic result, calling it a "massive achievement" for a group that had endured difficult phases in recent months. Returning from injury, Bavuma credited the team's mindset shift and praised spinners Simon Harmer and Keshav Maharaj for their control and consistency. Harmer, who claimed a series-defining 17 wickets, was named Player of the Series, calling it a "special feeling" to succeed in India a decade after his earlier struggles. Player of the Match Marco Jansen highlighted the collective effort and credited coach Shukri Conrad for encouraging him to play freely. Aiden Markram, meanwhile, said the team avoided "preconceived ideas" about Indian conditions and relied on disciplined bowling to sustain pressure. For India, the defeat serves as a stark reminder that home advantage alone cannot compensate for lapses in execution — a message Pant acknowledged India must heed moving forward.

PANT ADMITS INDIA MUST IMPROVE SIGNIFICANTLY AS HOME CONDITIONS NO LONGER GUARANTEE VICTORIES

AFI Overhauls Calendar for Sustained Athlete Performance

NEW DELHI

With both the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games scheduled in the coming season, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has undertaken a major overhaul of its domestic competition structure. The aim is to ensure athletes perform at high levels multiple times through the year, rather than peaking early and tapering off before major championships.

In a calendar expanded from 32 to 40 meets, the AFI has introduced the Indian Athletics Series, comprising 16 competitions and a Finals at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi—returning to the domestic lineup after three years. The World Athletics Continental Tour meet in Bhubaneswar has been upgraded to Silver level, offering higher ranking points, while India will also host its first National Indoor Championships.

The revamp stems from a recurring issue: top athletes hitting peak form too early. This season alone saw Praveen Chithravel match his national triple jump record (17.37m) in April, only to struggle thereafter. Similar patterns emerged with Shaili Singh, Gurindervir Singh, and quartermiler Rupal, all unable to build on early-season highs.

Chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair emphasised the need for a phased approach aligned with global standards. "Elite sprinters abroad compete 12–13 times before their main meet. They know how to distribute their efforts. We want our athletes and coaches to plan across general preparation, specific preparation, and competition periods," he said.

To support this shift, AFI has lowered qualification standards to give emerging athletes more exposure, especially in the new series where select junior events will be added. Seminars have also been held to help coaches adapt to the redesigned calendar.

Key national meets include the Federation Cup in Ranchi (May 22–25) and the National Inter-State Championships in Bhubaneswar (July 8–12), likely doubling as selection trials for the Asian and Commonwealth Games. With Glasgow 2026 (July 23–August 2) and the Asian Games (September 19–October 4) scheduled close together, AFI will soon finalise selection criteria and priority events.

Athletes will also be required to compete in a minimum number of build-up meets—two for the Federation Cup, and three (including a state meet) for the Inter-State and National Open Championships—as AFI pushes for sustained competitiveness throughout the year.

Jasveer Singh Takes Over as Patna Pirates Coach

PATNA

The Patna Pirates have announced Jasveer Singh, former head coach of the UP Yoddhas, as their new Head Coach ahead of the upcoming Pro Kabaddi League season. Singh, who resigned from the Yoddhas after a disappointing 2025 campaign, will bring his extensive experience to the Pirates in a bid to strengthen their strategies and performance. Singh spent seven seasons with the UP Yoddhas, guiding them to five playoff appearances and three semi-finals. Despite his long tenure, the team finished ninth this season with seven wins from 18 matches, prompting Singh to take responsibility and step down. "It is not fair to put all the responsibility on players. As a head coach, I share accountability," Singh said in a post-match press conference.

The Patna Pirates themselves had a rollercoaster season in 2025. Starting under Anup Kumar, they won only two of their first nine matches and were languishing in tenth position. Randeep Dalal took over mid-season and orchestrated a stunning turnaround, leading the team to five consecutive wins, securing a seventh-place finish in the league stage with eight wins from 18 matches.

In the playoffs, the Pirates continued their resurgence, winning three straight matches to reach the third Eliminator.

Srikanth Targets Revival at Syed Modi International

LUCKNOW

Kidambi Srikanth arrives at the Syed Modi India International this week with renewed confidence and a clear objective — to build on the form that sparked his resurgence at the Malaysia Masters earlier this year. Five months after ending a four-year wait for a BWF World Tour final, the former world No.1 is looking to reclaim his place among the sport's elite.

Srikanth's journey back to relevance began in May, when he fought his way from the qualifiers to the final in Kuala Lumpur. Then ranked 65th, he stunned higher-ranked opponents including Toma Junior Popov and Nhat Nguyen before losing to China's Li Shi Feng in straight games. The performance not only ended a long title drought but also revived belief in a meaningful late-career push.

Now under the guidance of former rival Parupalli Kashyap, Srikanth is focused on rebuilding steadily. "We have discussed his plans for the next Asian Games and improving his ranking is the immediate goal," Kashyap said

ahead of Srikanth's opening-round match against compatriot Kavin Thangam. "He is at a later stage of his career, so staying fit is crucial. He is working really hard."

Kashyap, who defeated Srikanth in the 2015 Syed Modi final before the latter clinched the 2016 title, believes his ward is on the right track. "He has shown good form. Undoubtedly, he is slowly improving," he said.

For Srikanth, the Malaysia Masters runner-up finish remains a pivotal milestone. "I feel I'm almost there. It's about winning those important matches," he had said in May, adding that he sees steady improvement in his game.

While an Olympic dream may be fading, Srikanth's ambitions on the BWF circuit remain realistic. With consistency, fitness and confidence returning, the 2025 season could yet mark a strong revival for the seasoned shuttler.

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